

BRIEFING  
...old  
...have heirs

## Iraqi Scud intercepted over Riyadh

RIYADH (R) — U.S. army Patriot missiles intercepted an Iraqi Scud over the Saudi capital Riyadh Sunday, witnesses said. Air raid sirens sounded at 9.28 p.m. (1828 GMT) and radio and television stations advised people to take cover. The witnesses said Patriot batteries fired two of the anti-missile missiles and an explosion in the sky followed shortly. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. A Scud was also briefly sighted in the eastern city of Dhahran at the same time. An Iraqi Scud was intercepted over Riyadh at 4.40 a.m. (0140 GMT) and the debris damaged part of a school. No one was hurt, according to spokesmen. Iraq later launched two of the missiles towards the northern town of Haifa Al Baten. They caused no damage or casualties, spokesmen said.

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## Iran voices regret over allied attack

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Sunday expressed regret over the land offensive against Iraq and said the objectives of the U.S.-led forces went beyond U.N. resolutions. Mr. Rafsanjani, whose country played a key part in diplomatic efforts to persuade Iraq to quit Kuwait, said Baghdad could have averted the land war if it had heeded Tehran's advice to pull out its forces. He said he had agreed with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday to redouble their efforts to obtain an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. "But unfortunately it has become evident that the United States and its allies are pursuing wider aims than Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait," he said in remarks broadcast over Tehran Radio. The Iranian leader made the remarks at a meeting with visiting Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock.

# Ground war rages in Gulf theatre

## Iraq reports inflicting heavy allied casualties, challenges rival claims

## Allies claim successes in battle for Kuwait, but offer little specifics

## Baghdad refutes U.S. assertions

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID it inflicted heavy casualties on allied soldiers launching a ground offensive on Sunday and destroyed hundreds of their tanks.

Military communique 61, the second since the ground war began early Sunday, said Iraqi forces "burned and destroyed hundreds of enemy tanks and killed or wounded a large number of soldiers."

The military command also denied reports that allied troops had taken Falaka island, made amphibious landings or captured tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers.

Iraqi soldiers were encouraged by President Saddam Hussein to show no mercy and Baghdad Radio broadcast a message to the troops, telling them death with dignity was better than life in humiliation.

A military communique, which said the ground move named Iraqi

commanders, said that the 3rd division under Major General Salah Abboud and the 1st division under Major General Ibrahim Ismail was continuing an "epic confrontation against the onslaught of allied forces."

"Our forces repulsed and contained the enemy attacks and foiled their objectives. The Third Division burned and destroyed hundreds of enemy tanks and vehicles and inflicted large numbers of casualties," the communique said.

"They enemy dropped airborne troops behind our lines at Minagish (in western Kuwait), but our forces besieged them and wiped them out," the communique added.

The communique said Iraqi forces repulsed and inflicted heavy casualties on a joint French-British force which tried to attack from the west.

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**SOLIDARITY:** 'Saddam you are steadfast and we will return to Jerusalem with you,' says the banner held by a small girl at a demonstration held in Amman Sunday (see page 3).

## Jordan condemns ground assault 'May God protect Iraq and its heroic sons'

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Expressing deep sorrow and anger, Jordan Sunday denounced the allies' ground assault against Iraq despite Baghdad's acceptance of a Soviet proposal to withdraw from Kuwait in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions.

While an official spokesman condemned the ground offensive as a departure from the mandate of U.N. resolutions, senior officials and politicians said a historic opportunity for peace not only in the Gulf but also the entire Middle East had been missed when the U.S. turned down the last-minute Soviet initiative and went ahead with the military option.

The official spokesman, in a government statement, voiced "deep anger, pain and condemnation" of the allied thrust into Iraq and Kuwait and expressed regret that the move came "despite progress achieved by Iraq and the Soviet Union towards... implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 660," which calls for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait (see box).

Urging the international community to "adopt a firm position and seek an immediate end to the war," the spokesman also wished Iraq success in its defensive posture. "May God protect Iraq and give its heroic sons, at this decisive moment, the ability to withstand and repulse the aggression

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## Full text of statement

Following is the text of the statement issued by an official spokesman:

"Jordan has received with anger, pain and condemnation news of the ground attack against the Iraqi armed forces early this morning. Unfortunately, this assault was launched despite the progress achieved by brotherly Iraq and the Soviet Union towards an honourable peace settlement which guarantees the fulfilment of international legitimacy and compliance with international laws and opens a new

leaf in the conflict towards ending bloodshed and loss of life.

Jordan has welcomed the Soviet peace initiative and appreciated the prompt Iraqi response to it. Jordan sincerely felt that there was a real chance for peace in the discussions held at the U.N. Security Council. Accordingly, Jordan launched discussions with other countries to convene a Security Council session in order to place the Gulf conflict before the world body with a

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## News blackout shrouds coalition

Combined agency dispatches

FIERCE BATTLES erupted in and around Kuwait and on the Saudi-Iraqi border Sunday as U.S.-led allied forces of 15 countries launched a massive land assault against Iraqi troops.

Reports by allied spokesmen as well as leaders of the countries in the coalition spoke of "successes" in the offensive, but only censored reports came out of the battle theatre after the allies imposed a total news blackout except for briefings by official spokesmen.

Reports by the spokesmen said the allied forces did not encounter much resistance at the Saudi-Iraqi border, but met with heavy counterattacks as they went deeper.

Allied spokesmen said 5,500 Iraqi troops were taken prisoner, but Baghdad challenged this figure.

The scope of the coalition war seemed broader than the eviction of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. One official spoke of stripping Iraq of any capability for future offensive military activity, and White House officials said no secret of their desire to see Saddam Hussein fall from power.

President George Bush attended a private, early-morning church service with family members and top officials on the morning after summoning American troops into the largest land battle since Vietnam. The White House said Defence Secretary Dick Cheney summed up the ground offensive as "going very well."

Mr. Bush heard prayers for peace at St. John's Episcopal Church across Lafayette Park from the White House.

He also heard the shouts and drums of anti-war demonstrators as he

entered the church for the communion service. At least one demonstrator was arrested for making too much noise.

Mr. Bush made no public statement, leaving it to Mr. Cheney, Secretary of State James Baker and other top officials. They issued glowing reports about the progress of the ground war without providing specifics of the fighting.

In Saudi Arabia, General Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander in charge of Operation Desert Storm, asserted allied forces had reached their first-day objectives in the first 10 hours of fighting.

Neither the White House or military leaders were making details available, saying that the virtual news blackout was necessary to protect the advancing allied forces.

Coalition infantry and armoured vehicles moved forward to the battle just eight hours after Iraq ignored Mr. Bush's deadline for evacuating its army from Kuwait.

The land offensive came on the 39th day of the war, previously dominated by more than 95,000 air sorties and hundreds of missile attacks against Iraq.

Gen. Schwarzkopf said, 10 of the 28 nations in the U.S.-led alliance took part in the first wave of ground, air and sea attacks — the United States, Saudi Arabia, Britain, France, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Syria and Kuwait.

The Iraqis have laid an estimated 500,000 mines in southern Kuwait, and some were believed to include chemical agents. The Iraqi forces appeared to be using only conventional munitions in their artillery shells.

The way was prepared for the Marines' advance Friday morning by the use of anti-war demonstrators as he

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## Moscow: 'Very real' chance for peace lost

Combined agency dispatches

THE SOVIET government said Sunday a "very real chance" for peace was lost when Washington rejected a Soviet peace plan and ordered a ground assault against Iraqi troops.

"The instinct to rely on a military solution prevailed, despite the fact that Iraq agree to withdraw its forces from Kuwait," said a statement read by Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin.

On Saturday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz announced that his government had accepted a peace plan proposed by President Mikhail Gorbachev and would withdraw its troops from Kuwait within 21 days.

U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said in an interview on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" Sunday the Soviets remain "stalwart members" of the allied coalition.

The Soviet statement said Iraq's acceptance of the plan had "created a basically new situation, clearing the way to transferring the Gulf conflict to the footing of a political settlement."

Mr. Churkin said the Soviet Union made every effort to implement the peace plan before

the ground offensive was launched.

Mr. Churkin said Mr. Gorbachev had contacted the leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Syria, Egypt and Iran to inform them of Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet plan.

Mr. Gorbachev also asked Mr. Bush to delay the onset of a ground offensive for one or two days, presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said.

"We in the Soviet Union express regret that a very real chance for a peaceful outcome of the conflict has been missed," Mr. Churkin said.

Mr. Churkin said "it is still not too late" for the U.N. Security Council to try to find a peaceful settlement to the war.

Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who met with Mr. Gorbachev Saturday, blamed the allies for not compromising to avoid a land war.

"We have just had a proposal by Mr. Gorbachev more or less pushed aside by the multinational force, by the allies, a proposal which could have led to the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and to peace and security there," he

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## U.N. unable to control a war it 'authorised'

Combined agency dispatches

THE SECURITY COUNCIL abandoned an attempt to forge a compromise Gulf peace plan only 17 minutes into a meeting, that followed after allied forces had launched a massive offensive against Iraqi troops.

There are no further suggestions at this point about how to implement Security Council resolutions on the Gulf, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said after the late Saturday session.

"This is a campaign carried out and authorised by the Security Council," he said.

Mr. Pickering said there were no prospects for a ceasefire during the meeting. The council had no further consultations planned for Sunday or Monday.

Most of the members are apparently resigned to a Gulf war they authorised but cannot control.

Britain's Ambassador David Hannay told reporters: "It is perfectly reasonable the council should meet from time to time... to hear reports from (the allied coalition) on how they are conducting the military operation."

But Mr. Hannay also said the 15-member council in future should occupy itself with a long list of tasks, including the "liberation of civilians held against their will in Iraq" and the "wider issues relative to the peace and stability of the region."

The Yemeni and Cuban representatives accused the United States and its allies of using the council as a rubber stamp. But

other envoys did not voice such harsh criticism.

The United States, Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union are permanent members of the council with veto powers.

Ten other members rotate on a non-permanent basis. Currently they are Austria, Belgium, Cuba, Ivory Coast, Ecuador, India, Romania, Yemen, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

Yemen's Abdalla Al Ashtal, the only Arab council member, said: "We should be frank with the whole world and say that there is nothing we can do at this point."

"Nobody can say why on earth so many thousands will have to die just because there is a disagreement on a few days (on) withdrawal," he said in a voice

cracking with emotion.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was conspicuous by his absence at the Saturday session after telling members U.N. resolutions against Iraq and the "supreme moral imperative" of preventing destruction of life should "not be irreconcilable."

The council on Nov. 29 authorised the use of force to drive Iraq from Kuwait if it did not withdraw unconditionally by Jan. 15.

On Friday, Soviet and Iraqi officials announced they agreed on a peace plan which would have allowed Iraq 21 days to leave Kuwait starting a day after a ceasefire in the war that started Jan. 17.

Allies called the Soviet plan

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## Aziz, transiting Amman, urges Jordan to continue diplomacy to end war

By Abdullah Hassanat  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz left Amman Sunday morning after a stop over in Jordan en route from Moscow to Baghdad, Prime Minister Mudar Badran told a closed session of Parliament Sunday afternoon, deputies said.

Mr. Aziz held talks with His Majesty King Hussein and Jordanian officials and briefed them on his Moscow talks and Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet initiative.

Mr. Badran told deputies the Iraqis had assured him that they would exert all efforts possible to put an end to the war and bring peace to the region.

Mr. Aziz asked Jordan to continue its efforts to find a political solution to the Gulf conflict, the prime minister said. "All that Iraq needs from Jordan is for the Kingdom to press on with its political efforts to end the war,"

Mr. Badran quoted Mr. Aziz as saying.

According to Mr. Badran, Mr. Aziz left Jordan by road early this morning for Baghdad, the deputies who attended the secret session said.

They said that Mr. Badran also told them that he believed the aims of the U.S.-led alliance were to destroy Iraq's state infrastructure, its industries and to topple its leadership.

According to the deputies, the prime minister said the allied bombardment of Iraq and especially Baghdad resulted in the destruction of the country's factories, power plants, water stations, roads and public buildings including the presidential palace.

"There is not a single factory in Iraq that has been spared bombardment."

The coalition forces bombed every factory several times to make sure it would not function," Mr. Badran quoted Mr. Aziz as saying.

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## Iraqis feel they were betrayed by other Arabs

By Wafa Amer  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — For some Iraqis, the launching of the allied ground offensive heightened a feeling that they had been betrayed by other Arabs and abandoned by the rest of the world.

Some expressed bitterness that Iraq was again at war, while others vowed to fight to vent their frustration.

"Where are the Arabs who said they support Iraq?" asked elderly Abu Mohammad as he sold tea Sunday in Baghdad's Shourjah bazaar.

The market was as crowded as any other day, but many buyers and sellers listened attentively to transistor radios for the latest news from the front.

"We are fighting for our death or survival alone, and the rest of the world doesn't care," Abu Mohammad said. "I'm infuriated by the world's silence... nobody will come to our rescue."

A doctor, who declined to give his name, indicated he and others were dissatisfied with the political status quo in Iraq.

"We don't know what tomorrow holds for us, but we do know that we must first fight for our independence and then struggle to bring about social, political and economic changes," the doctor said.

Some Iraqis said the start of the ground assault placed their fate more so than ever in the hands of the leadership.

Several people echoed Abu Mohammad in complaining of betrayal by other Arabs. Some displayed their bitterness by refusing to talk to visiting Arab journalists.

"We will vent our anger and frustration at the battlefield when we face our enemies and they will feel our reciprocated hostility," said a man in his 30s who identified himself only as Muntaz.

He said that the real objective of the ground assault was the destruction of Iraq.

"This is what America wants," he said.

Among some Iraqis, there was a sense of resignation.

(U.S. President George) Bush launched the attack while status quo in Iraq.

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## Israel reimposes blanket curfew

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI CONFINED all Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to their homes on Sunday, hours after the ground war in the Gulf began.

The start of the ground assault eased Israeli fears that the United States and its allies would accept a ceasefire that would leave Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in power challenging the Jewish state.

Israel Television's evening news programme began with the words "God bless America," and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir wished the American-led Gulf coalition success as he attended a memorial service for former Premier Levi Eshkol.

"We, of course, bless the American leadership and the U.S. army and all the allied," Mr. Shamir said. "We wish them well in this decisive phase of the war against (Iraq) and wish them complete success in executing their mission."

Mr. Shamir was asked whether Israel intends to get involved at one stage or another in the fight, and he replied: "I don't think so."

The curfew, which human rights groups say causes severe hardship, was first imposed after the start of the war on Jan. 17 to forestall pro-Iraqi demonstrations. It had been eased over the past two weeks.

The army allowed several thousand Palestinians from Gaza to go to jobs in Israel, but blocked all access from the West Bank.

Stone-throwing protests were reported Sunday in Gaza.

Mr. Shamir was briefed on the Gulf situation by his Ambassador to the United States Zalmay Chasom, who had been contacted by Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Baker also called Foreign Minister David Levy around 5 a.m. (0300 GMT) to tell him the land war had started, Israel Radio said. Mr. Levy wished the allies success.

The radio said civil defence instructions were unchanged — continue business as usual but keep gas protection kits close at all times.

Iraq has threatened to strike Israel with chemical weapons and

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## Non-coalition Arab states denounce allies

Combined agency dispatches

ARAB STATES WHICH ARE NOT members of the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition denounced the allied ground offensive Sunday as a premeditated effort to destroy Iraq.

Some 100,000 Yemenis took to the streets, denouncing Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for sending troops to help the U.S.-led forces in the Gulf.

Egyptian riot police fired tear gas at hundreds of stone-throwing students protesting against the war and chanting Allahu Akbar.

Mr. Mubarak, apparently responding to domestic and Arab sensitivities, said earlier Egyptian troops would not enter Iraq as part of the allied ground offensive to recapture Kuwait.

Mr. Mubarak, Washington's closest Arab ally, was denounced as a "U.S. agent" in Yemen, where one million workers observed a one-hour stoppage called by labour unions.

A senior member of Algeria's National Assembly condemned the attack against Iraq and predicted it would fail.

"The parliament and deputies violently criticise this attack on Iraqi soil," said Djamel Ould

Abbes, president of the parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission.

"Despite their (allied) talk of a fast ground war it will not be with the speed they think. This war will not realise its goals because the (Iraqi) people wants to live and will not allow it," he told Reuters.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid Saturday accused Washington and its allies of rejecting Iraqi attempts to solve the conflict peacefully.

Leaders of most Algerian political parties also condemned it. "This is proof that the United States had no other goal except to destroy Iraq," said Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of Algeria's opposition Socialist Forces Front.

Tunisia expressed "total solidarity" with the Iraqi people.

A government statement accused the U.S.-led allies of stubbornness.

"The Tunisian government greets with extreme repugnance and disappointment the failure of new opportunities for peace and the (allied) insistence to intensify the war against Iraq... despite its acceptance of U.N. Resolution 660."

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# Saddam calls on Iraqis to fight with all might to foil assault

Reuters

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein on Sunday called on the Iraqi Army to stand up against the U.S.-led forces which began a ground offensive at dawn. Otherwise, he said, a lengthy darkness will prevail over Iraq.

Following is a partial text of his speech on Baghdad Radio, translated from Arabic by Reuters. In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. It is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you and that ye love thing which is bad for you. God knoweth and ye know not (Koranic verses).

O Great Iraqi people. O valiant men of our heroic armed forces. O faithful and honourable people wherever you are... at the time when it was decided that the (U.N.) Security Council would meet to look into the Soviet peace initiative, which we supported... the treacherous (U.S. President George) Bush and his filthy agent (Saudi Arabian King) Fahd, and others who have consorted with them in committing crimes, shame, and aggression, committed the treachery.

Those cowards who have perfected the acts of treachery, treason, and villainy, committed treachery after they departed from every path of virtue, goodness, and humanity. They have committed treachery and waged their large-scale ground assault at our struggling forces this morning. Their objective became known to all who have not known their objective so far.

They committed treachery according to their wont and qualities. They even betrayed those who along with them signed the infamous resolutions which were adopted at the Security Council before the military aggression against our country, deluding themselves that by those resolutions they were protecting international legitimacy.

They betrayed everyone but God is above all... he will strike back their treachery on their necks and shame them until their ranks and their falling horde are repulsed.

From the beginning, the evil ones worked on this path, the path of hostility and evil, in order to harm the Iraqi people and smother the shining candle in their hearts. Cursed be their intentions and cursed be their deeds.

However, they will realise after a while that God's unshakable desire will prevent them from

inflicting evil on the people of faith and jihad. They will realise after a while that the great people of Iraq and the brave Iraqi armed forces are not like what they think or imagine.

Fight them, O Iraqis, with all the values that you imbibed from your great history and with all the values of faith in which you believed as a people who believe in God... fight them, O brave, splendid men. O men of the mother of battles and Al Qadisiyah.

Fight them with your faith in God. Fight them in defence of every free and honourable woman and every innocent child, and in defence of the values of manhood, values, and the military honour which you shoulder.

Fight them because with their defeat you will be at the last entrance of the conquest of all conquests. The war will end with all that the situation entails of dignity, glory, and triumph for your people, army, and nation. If the opposite takes place, God forbid, there will only be the deep abyss to which the enemies are aspiring to push you... and a lengthy darkness will prevail over Iraq.

Fight them, O men. They do not carry the values that entitle them to be more manly, courageous, and capable than you. When men collide with each other, the weapons of supremacy will disappear and the only thing that remains to decide the final result will be the faith of the faithful and the courage of those who adhere to their noble, nationalistic, and faithful stand of jihad.

Fight them and show no mercy towards them, for this is how God wishes the faithful to fight the infidel. Your sons, mothers, fathers, and kin, and the entire population of Iraq and the world are beholding your performance today. Do what pleases God and bring dignity to the homeland and the people.

Fight them in the style of the faithful men. They are the camp of atheism, hypocrisy, and treachery. You are the camp of faith, unshifting principles, loyalty, and sincerity.

Fight them and victory will be yours, so will be dignity, honour, and glory. God is greater. God is greater. God is greater and let the miserable meet their fate.

Victory is sweet with the help of God.

## Text of Bush announcement

WASHINGTON (R) — Following is U.S. President George Bush's televised statement Saturday night announcing the start of an invasion by allied forces against Iraqi forces.

Good evening. Yesterday, after conferring with my senior national security advisers and following extensive consultations with our coalition partners, (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein was given one last chance, set forth in very explicit terms, to do what he should have done more than six months ago: Withdraw from Kuwait without condition or further delay and comply fully with the resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council.

Regrettably, the noon deadline passed without the agreement of the government of Iraq to meet demands of United Nations Security Council Resolution 660, as set forth in the specific terms spelled out by the coalition to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait.

To the contrary, what we have seen is a redoubling of Saddam

Hussein's efforts to destroy completely Kuwait and its people. I have therefore directed General Norman Schwarzkopf, in conjunction with coalition forces, to use all forces available, including ground forces, to eject the Iraqi army from Kuwait. Once again, this was a decision made only after extensive consultations within our coalition partnership.

The liberation of Kuwait has now entered a final phase. I have complete confidence in the ability of the coalition forces swiftly and decisively to accomplish their mission.

Tonight as this coalition of countries seeks to do that which is right and just, I ask only that all of you stop what you were doing and say a prayer for all the coalition forces, and especially for our men and women in uniform, who, this very moment, are risking their lives for their country and for all of us. May God bless and protect each and every one of them and may God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

## 'Peace efforts never altered allied invasion schedule'

Combined agency dispatches

INTENSE DIPLOMATIC efforts by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to end the ground war never altered plans decided two weeks ago on the timing of the final phase of the Gulf war, a U.S. administration official said Saturday.

President George Bush issued a deadline for noon est (1700 GMT) on Saturday for Iraq to begin withdrawing from Kuwait in order to give it "one last chance" to avoid the massive assault, an aide said.

"The deadline was set because we anticipated ground action tonight," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters in his office.

Mr. Fitzwater said that allied commander General Norman Schwarzkopf chose a series of dates for the start of the land attack and that 8 p.m. est on Saturday (0100 GMT) was his main recommendation.

"The understanding was that if (Iraq) did not accept (its) intentions (on a withdrawal) that General Schwarzkopf was authorised to proceed with the plan unless the president called it off," Mr. Fitzwater said.

In fact, the president knew when he left the White House on Friday for a weekend in Camp David that he would be back in Washington late Saturday to address the nation, Mr. Fitzwater said.

Mr. Fitzwater said the time for the ground war to begin was selected shortly after U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, returned from their visit to the war zone earlier this month.

Gen. Schwarzkopf selected 8 p.m. (0100 GMT Sunday) Feb. 23 and Mr. Bush signed off on it, Mr. Fitzwater said. The spokesman said Mr. Bush could not recall exactly when it was that he had signed off on the date — although it could have as long as two weeks ago.

"He said he discussed it so many times, he just couldn't pinpoint it," Mr. Fitzwater said.

He said that Mr. Bush conferred with Mr. Cheney and U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft several times during the day on Saturday "and made it clear there was no reason not to go ahead."

Mr. Bush always could have cancelled the order anytime on Saturday, Mr. Fitzwater told reporters. The spokesman said that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who talked to Mr. Bush for 30 minutes within an hour before the deadline expired, was not told by the president that a ground attack would come.

Mr. Bush talked on Saturday to British Prime Minister John Major, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Mr. Fitzwater said Soviet efforts to barter a peace agreement had no effect on the ground war date and time; nor did alleged actions taken by the Iraqis in setting fire to oil fields.

"The coalition plan was firm and set," Mr. Fitzwater said. Mr. Fitzwater said the length of the air campaign was extended because of concern about Iraqi Scud missile attacks on Israel.

## Aziz

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He said that while the allied bombardment of Iraq resulted in the death of 7,000 people in the first three weeks of war, only 100 Iraqi soldiers were killed in raids on Iraqi troops in the first 20 days of aerial bombardment.

Mr. Badran assured the deputies that Iraq had the capabilities to sustain and repulse the allied ground attack.

The Parliament session started with sharp exchanges between the deputies who wanted to speak on the war and Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat who for some time insisted on following the session agenda.

After Mr. Arabiyat consulted the prime minister on whether he wanted a closed or open session, Mr. Badran said: "If it was closed it would give us more freedom." After that the speaker declared the session closed and journalists and spectators left the chamber.

## Jordan

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in defence of their rights and the future of their nation," the spokesman said.

Jordan, which rejected Iraq's occupation of Kuwait but also opposed the American-led military campaign in the Gulf, was hoping that the Soviet initiative, which was accepted by Iraq on Friday, would have paved the way for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, a senior official said.

"Very unfortunately, it seems, Washington was in no mood to listen," said the official pointing out to reports that President George Bush had decided on the timing of the ground offensive as early as two weeks ago.

"The Security Council was also unable to do anything despite Iraq's positive response to the Soviet initiative," noted the official.

A senior Foreign Ministry official noted that the minister, Taher Al Masri, was due to meet with European Community (EC) foreign ministers in Luxembourg Monday. "The minister would be making an all-out effort at all levels in following up the appeal by His Majesty the King to the big powers as well as Arab states to seek an end to the war," the official said.

Ibrahim Izzeddine, the information minister, predicted a long period of "tension, suspicion and bad feelings" in the Middle East following the allied ground invasion.

Describing the Iraqi acceptance of the Soviet proposal as an historic chance which would not only have paved the way for a peaceful solution of the conflict but also an atmosphere conducive to improved inter-Arab relations and Arab-Western relations, the minister told a morning briefing:

"Now it is going to be very difficult... I think we are going to see a rather prolonged period of suspicion."

Taher Hikmat, a former minister and a prominent lawyer, also described the Soviet initiative as a missed historic opportunity "which could have led to honourable peace if the international community were to adopt it."

"The ground invasion may achieve its objective, but it cannot bring in a honourable, dignified and lasting peace," Mr. Hikmat told the Jordan Times.

"It has also undermined all for of Arab cooperation such as the Arab League and other organisations," he said. "It will be a long time before we could even think of the recent years of the fragile peace we enjoyed in the region," he added.

At the same time, Mr. Hikmat said, the ground offensive has not come as a surprise since it "is very clear that the United States is seeking to impose its hegemony on the region and the whole world."

But, he said, the U.S. "cannot achieve its aim since a defeat of Iraq will only further fuel frustration and extremism in the region."

As the elected Lower House of Parliament was holding a closed session on the Gulf situation, several members of the Upper House reacted with vehemence

and anger to the invasion. "We don't believe that the U.S. is seeking to liberate Kuwait," said Senator Husni Ayesh. "There is no doubt that it wants to destroy Iraq since it is the only Arab power ever to threaten Israel," he told the Jordan Times.

"The repeated American rejection of all peace initiatives, including that of Jordan from the very beginning and the Soviet plan, which was the last, indicates but one thing: Even if Iraq was to accept Resolution 660 to the letter, the U.S. would have found some way to reject it and press ahead with its objectives of war and destruction of Iraq," he said.

Mohammad Kamal, another senator and a former ambassador to Washington, shared the same sentiment and said he was convinced that "the U.S. and its allies are fulfilling the wishes and demands of Israel by seeking to destroy Iraq's military capabilities."

But, Mr. Kamal warned: "the bitterness and frustration that this war will create will make this region a most miserable place to live for many years."

Jumma Hamad, also a member of the Upper House and a journalist and writer, described the allied assault as an "invasion of the Islamic and Arab Nations" and expressed confidence that "the Iraqis will be strong enough to repulse the aggressors."

"Having already attained its goal of controlling the oil reserves (by its military presence in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf), the U.S. is now trying to remove a strong Arab country which can challenge its ally, Israel," he said.

However, he said, "Iraq exposed the real intentions and objectives of the U.S. by accepting to withdraw from Kuwait and now Washington has nowhere to hide its motivations and goals to serve Israel's interests."

"Iraq was trying to pave the way for a better future for the Arab World and the Middle East," he said. "But now the United States is trying to assume that role."

"I don't even dare visualise the future as the Americans want it to be," he added.

## Statement

(Continued from page 1)

view to beginning the practical implementation of Resolution 660, the fundamental resolution on which all subsequent resolutions on the Gulf crisis are based.

Jordan feels deeply disappointed with the (anti-Iraq) coalition's disregard for the ongoing Security Council deliberations and calls for fresh, intensified efforts for a ceasefire and for finding the right mechanism for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 660 through peaceful means.

Jordan sees in this aggression against brotherly Iraq a departure from Security Council resolutions after Iraq agreed to abide by them.

Jordan, which has sought to save the Gulf region from the catastrophic consequences of war from the very early hours of the crisis, feels great pain that matters have reached this extent, denounces this aggression and expresses the anger and pain of its people and calls upon the international community to adopt a firm position and put an end to this fighting.

May God protect Iraq and give its courageous sons, at this decisive moment, the ability to withstand and repulse aggression in defence of its rights and the future of the nation.

## Refutal

(Continued from page 1)

It said the first division of the Iraqi army drove off an attack by a joint U.S.-Saudi-Egyptian force on Sunday afternoon.

The communiqué called on Americans to ask President George Bush "to tell them about the fate of the (allied) forces and the losses they suffered instead of telling lies."

An earlier statement by an Iraqi military spokesman denied allied reports that thousands of

Iraqi troops had been captured. "We assert the steadfast position of the armed forces who are fighting courageously and have been inflicting heavy losses on the attackers since the aggression started," said a military spokesman quoted on Baghdad Radio.

The spokesman said the island of Falaka, which commands the sea approach to Kuwait City, was still under Iraqi control and there had been no allied amphibious assault on the Iraqi or Kuwaiti coasts.

"Reports" of the "capture" of the island, that allied forces had "taken" Kuwait City and that "a large amphibious unit had" landed on the shores of Kuwaiti were all carried by the Kuwaiti News Agency. But all these reports were subsequently denied by official spokesmen for the allied forces.

"We challenge (the allies) to invite the news media and television networks to the island of Falaka. They cannot because the heroic Iraqi forces are still there," the Iraqi spokesman said. "They also claimed that thousands of Iraqi soldiers surrendered... we also challenge them to show any amphibious attack."

"Our shores are steadfast and our forces are protecting them... we to those who dare approach the shores," the spokesman said.

He said the U.S.-led allied forces had failed to achieve "any of the aims they planned or talked about."

He said the news blackout imposed by the allies showed they were issuing "a series of lies as part of a planned psychological campaign."

Baghdad Radio also said that President Saddam had chaired a joint meeting Sunday of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) and the regional command of the Arab Baath Socialist Party. It gave no further details.

The first explicit announcement by Iraq confirming the ground offensive came from President Saddam himself, in a broadcast address to Iraqi soldiers and civilians.

President Saddam said U.S. President George Bush and the allies treacherously launched the offensive before the U.N. Security Council could consider a Soviet peace initiative supported by Iraq.

He said the allies had "committed treachery and launched their ground offensive on a wide scale Sunday morning."

"Fight them, oh brave, splendid men. Oh men of the mother of battles," President Saddam said. "Fight them and show no mercy... otherwise, God forbid, there will be nothing but a long night of darkness, vice and the abyss."

Baghdad Radio also called on other Arabs to join the battle against the enemies of Arabs and Muslims.

"O honourable people, this is your battle. It is the dividing line between the good and the evil..." the radio said. "There is no room, oh honourable Arabs, for hesitation in this battle, in this historic showdown."

It said Iraq was fighting the armies of 30 states and called on Arabs to attack the enemy everywhere.

"Destroy their interests wherever they may be and slay them wherever you catch them," it said.

The radio also denounced Egypt, saying it was "regrettable and shameful" that one Arab country would fight alongside foreigners against another Arab state.

In its first detailed report on the fighting Iraq's military said Sunday afternoon that the offensive came against six Iraqi divisions belonging to three army corps. Their locations were not identified.

Iraqi divisions vary in size, but often have 10,000 to 12,000 troops. Each corps contains three divisions.

## Coalition

(Continued from page 1)

when other marine units slipped into Kuwait on foot through the minefield to establish a safe route for advancing armour.

In the Gulf, warships from Britain, the United States, Saudi Arabia and

Kuwait were at battle stations. Gen. Schwarzkopf said initial reports of Iraqi forces might have used chemical weapons had been investigated and found to be false.

The Kuwaiti News Agency claimed Kuwait City was "now under control of allied forces," but the report was immediately denied.

Military analysts expect the allies to swing northeast through Iraq to drive a wedge between Basra and the estimated 350,000 Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

U.S. officers have refused to discuss their strategy in detail except to say that they would hit where the Iraqis least expected it.

One marine Harrier jump-jet crashed during the nighttime invasion and the pilot was missing.

The general said his reports were preliminary and it was too soon to prejudge the outcome of the fighting. "So far we are delighted with the progress of the campaign... (but) this is very early stages, little more than 12 hours. The war's not over yet," he added.

"It's impossible to say how long it's going to take. It's going to take as long as it takes for the Iraqis to get out of Kuwait."

Asked if casualties were light because the allies had gone around or over the Iraqi defences, he said: "We're going to go around, over, through, on top and over, underneath and any other way."

The first armies to attack, at 4 a.m. (0100 GMT) on Sunday, were from the United States, France and Arab countries. British, Saudi, Kuwaiti, Egyptian and Syrian troops took part in the afternoon, he said.

The air forces of Italy, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar helped those of the larger contingents in close support sorties which stretched their resources to the limit.

Of the Kuwaiti coast, planes took off from U.S. aircraft carriers, U.S. British and Saudi warships hunted mines and Kuwaiti ships joined them in bombarding Iraqi positions.

The U.S. battleship Missouri lobbed one-tonne shells from its 16-inch guns into the emirate, Western military sources said.

British Prime Minister John Major, said the battle would not end until Iraq had been driven out of Kuwait.

A British military spokesman in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh said British forces crossed the Saudi border after the attack was launched.

The British 1st armoured division, supported by tanks and armoured personnel carriers, had crossed the border but was not involved in any early exchanges with the Iraqis, Britain's Press Association news agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

The agency said earlier that the division had pushed across the border "into Iraq well to the west of Kuwait."

Mr. Major, who spoke by telephone to President Bush before the land battle began, said it had become clear the attack could not be delayed any longer because of what was happening in Kuwait.

More than 200 oil wells in Kuwait had been set alight on the instructions of the Iraqi leadership and the number was increasing, he asserted.

French President Francois Mitterrand said the offensive was going better than expected.

"It's better than expected because it (the allied advance) is going faster and meeting fewer obstacles than we expected," he told French television.

But Mr. Mitterrand, head of France's armed forces, said it would be dangerous to conclude that the war was as good as finished.

French troops drove 50 kilometres into Iraq in the first 12 hours of the allied land offensive and took 1,000 prisoners, said General Michel Roquejoffre, head of France's Daguet division in the Gulf.

Only one French soldier was injured in the advance, he added. Mr. Mitterrand said the soldier was slightly injured when an Iraqi mine exploded.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose government has given more than \$10 billion to help the allied effort in the Gulf war, said that Germany firmly backed the ground offensive.

"The government hopes that the current phase of the war will end as soon as possible with the total liberation of Kuwait and its people and with as little loss of life as possible," Mr. Kohl said in a statement.

Egypt said its forces had entered several kilometres into Kuwait, but President Hosni Mubarak said they would not cross into Iraqi territory. "They are currently advancing inside Kuwaiti territory a distance of several kilometres with great success and with no significant resistance," the Egypt news agency MENA quoted a military source as saying.

Mr. Mubarak earlier told reporters Egyptian troops would not enter Iraqi territory. "Egyptian troops in the Gulf have a specific mission which is to help in liberating Kuwait. They have not (entered) and will not enter Iraq," he said in televised remarks.

Mr. Mubarak however was not asked, and did not volunteer to say whether Egypt's 36,000 troops in Saudi Arabia were part of the ground offensive which started early Sunday.

An Egyptian spokesman did not mention any casualties but a military source who spoke on condition he not be named, said earlier that there were some but that no further details were available.

"Yes, the Egyptian forces are part of the ground offensive," the source said.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told reporters that he was "extremely disappointed" by Iraq's refusal to leave Kuwait. "I am hoping that the war will end as soon as possible," he was quoted as saying.

A spokesman for Philippine President Corason Aquino said that his nation backed the ground offensive because it was enforcing a U.N. resolution.

A Kuwaiti official, meanwhile, expressed pleasure that what many see as the war's final phase had begun. But Adnan Al Sharrah, of the Kuwaiti information office in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, added: "We're also concerned about our relatives and what the Iraqis will do as they leave."

A senior Kuwaiti military source said earlier Sunday several luxury hotels had been blown up and the Iraqis had earmarked scores of other places for destruction.

The U.S. military says Iraqi forces have already torched more than 200 of the emirate's oilwells and are systematically destroying its oil production facilities.

Black smoke from the burning wells is drifting 400 kilometres down the Gulf and hampering visibility on the battlefield, allied pilots say.

The sources said well heads were ablaze in the Kuwaiti oilfields of Rawdatayn, Sabiriyah, Khashman, Al Maqura, Al Manaqish, Um Qadair, Al Wafra, Al Burqan, and Al Ahmadi.

Oil industry sources said Kuwait's main Al Burqan oilfield, one of the biggest in the world, was a high-pressure field which meant it would be difficult to repair the damage to its wells.

Crude from another field, the Um Qadair, yielded high levels of toxic hydrogen sulphide when burned, they said.

U.S. Rear Adm. John B. Laplane, commander of the amphibious task force carrying Marine assault units, said radio reports that marine amphibious forces had landed on the Kuwaiti island of Failaka were erroneous. He said he was awaiting orders from the U.S. command.

## Israel

(Continued from page 1)

has fired 37 conventionally-armed Scud missile at the Jewish state since the outbreak of the Gulf war.

The latest missile landed on Saturday night at 6:50 p.m. (1650 GMT), just ten minutes before the U.S. ultimatum to Iraq to pull out of Kuwait or face a ground attack expired.

"There were no casualties. In previous attacks four people have died and over 300 have been wounded."

Israeli officials have said Iraq's military must be destroyed to avoid a future conflict. Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron has said that objective necessitated a ground campaign.

## Attack on camps

Israeli helicopters Sunday fired two rockets near the southern Lebanese Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah. Police said no casualties or damages were reported.

Police said two low-flying Cobra helicopters fired two air-to-surface rockets in the waters near Rashidiyah camp. He said two F-16 jets flew over at high altitude to protect the choppers from anti-aircraft guns during the attack.

## Iraqis

(Continued from page 1)

the Security Council was meeting... he wants Iraq's destruction and nothing will stop him," said Hassan Fidiawi, a young merchant. "This proves he did not come to liberate Kuwait."

Nour Al Huda, mother of two sons in the army, said she expected a short war ending with Iraqi victory.

"It's no problem... we are ready for it," she said, standing in front of her house with two daughters at her side.

Rasad Saeed, shopping at the busy Karada vegetable market, was optimistic.

"A few days and you will see everything is okay," he said.

When a reporter asked who would win, he replied: "God will win."

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### PRAYER TIMES

04:48 ..... Fajr  
06:06 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
11:49 ..... Dhuhr  
15:41 ..... Asr  
17:32 ..... Maghrib  
18:49 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switich Tel. 610740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Torrens Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

622541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531.  
Armenian Orthodox Church



## Women voice anger at U.S.

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Around two hundred women, sandwiched between riot police and a barrage of foreign reporters, demonstrated Sunday in front of the American embassy denouncing the start of the land aggression against Iraq. "No good morning, no good night, ya America we will fight," "U.S.A. go away," the women shouted in a show of opposition to the U.S. especially the American administration, calling U.S. President George Bush the butcher of Iraqi women and children.

Carrying Jordanian, Iraqi, and Palestinian flags the women expressed their anger at the American-led aggression against Iraq. "Today this war has proven to the world that the main aim of the United States of America is to destroy Iraq, not to liberate the so-called emirate of Kuwait," a woman demonstrator said.

"The so-called Western democracy was built on tyranny and slavery. They have reduced us to the law of the jungle," said another woman who refused to give her name.

A group of women who were asked to be interviewed by an American reporter declined, with one of them saying: "what for? Everytime friends of mine are

interviewed their words are either twisted or they are not mentioned at all."

Another woman, who overheard the conversation cut in saying "American people are basically nice and simple people, our fight is not with them it is with their leader, Bush. Their only mistake is that they have allowed themselves to be brainwashed by Zionism."

Attending the demonstration were a group of Italian peace activists, who came to the region in a show of solidarity with the Iraqi, Palestinian, and Jordanian people. Some of them took part in the actual demonstration while others sat on the curb holding banners that read "we are ashamed to be West people (Westerners)."

"U.S. crimes: Hiroshima, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Congo, Chili, Cambodia, Granada, Panama, Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya, Lebanon... now Iraq, who is the next?" read one banner carried by a child during the demonstration.

In what appeared to be wishful thinking, women burst out yodelling and clapping their hands at what later turned out to be a false rumour of 15,000 Egyptian soldiers defecting to the Iraqi side. The feeling of jubilation ran high after news of that rumour broke out, to the degree that



A group of women and children stages an anti-war protest in front of the U.S. embassy in Amman (photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

some women actually cried. "Do you really think it happened?" asked one woman, "I pray it did," came the reply.

## Ground war sparks anger mixed with frustration, hope and happiness

By Nur Sati and  
Saeda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian public reaction to the U.S.-led ground offensive against Iraq, which began early Sunday, was a strange mix of anger, frustration and happiness. Though news spread of aggressive attack and a quick victory for the allies, Jordanians still retained a glimmer of hope and conviction that somehow victory would be on Iraq's side.

Frustration among Jordanians is particularly evident in the Palestinian camps. An unprecedented silence and tense atmosphere hung over Baqaa camp Sunday morning. The refugees refused to see any foreigners entering the camp. Young children were watching the main street leading to the entrance of the camp and scrutinising every passerby to see if he had "blond hair and blue eyes."

"You must leave," one doctor at Baqaa camp told a group of foreign journalists. "It is very dangerous here and people are already angry from your governments' barbaric attacks against Iraq."

Jordanians' anger was reflected in demonstrations. Several hundred people flooded the streets of downtown Amman after afternoon prayers at Al Hussein Mos-

que, chanting pro-Iraqi and anti-American slogans. Raising Jordanian flags along with mock 'Iraqi' rockets, demonstrators expressed their fury against "the obvious inhuman assaults" directed towards the Iraqi people.

"They have no right to come here, and now they are committing terrible acts against Iraq," one of the demonstrators said, adding: "(U.S. President) Bush's refusal to accept the Soviet peace initiative indicates his colonial objectives in the Middle East." Other demonstrators nodded in agreement and commented on the hatred the West has for Arabs.

"When I was studying at university in Britain, some British kept calling me 'bloody be-douin'," one of the demonstrators said.

Individuals expressed their hatred and anger some silently and others with outspokenness. Most of them put the blame, for the war on America and the blind followers.

"President Bush's only goal is to see that (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein is gone," said Ali who works in a petrol station. "Had he (Bush) wanted to pursue peaceful means, the U.S. would not have rejected the Soviet's peace initiative," he added.

A passerby added to Ali's re-

mark saying: "This was clearly a conspiracy between the Americans and the Israelis (while the allies are being wrapped around the U.S.'s fingers) to destroy an economically and militarily strong Iraq."

Suleiman Akroush, a translator, called the situation "stupid." He said, "the Arabs should be blamed for the situation, particularly some of those allies of America. He added that he felt 'very frustrated sitting in Jordan and not being able to do anything about it.'"

Omar, a shop-owner said, "this is not a war to liberate Kuwait. It is so sad that the Arab world is so misunderstood, ostracised and taken advantage of."

But a group of students gathered at the University of Jordan, asked, "why are people so angry at the U.S. when the Arab countries themselves turn against their own Arab brothers?" One outspoken woman stood up and added "these Arab leaders that are aligning themselves with their so-called allies, are being bought."

Another angry Jordanian believed that "the United Nations and the Security Council is nothing but a Micky Mouse theatre and a puppet on a string held by world leaders having fun." Walid added that "I urge all the Third World countries to withdraw their troops from this play be-

cause at the end of the day, they are the ones who will be stepped on."

Many Jordanians were angry over the current situation and the media blackout. They voiced their sympathy with Iraq and their sadness because of their incapacity to help or "just do anything to support Iraqis in this bloody, inhuman war."

"I am really frustrated because I cannot do anything while many Iraqis are being killed by the heavy bombardment," Nabil Mohammad Ali said.

Jordanians refrained from giving any post-war predictions, but they pointed out that the situation in the region will be totally different to the one before the Gulf crisis.

"It is never going to be the same again," a government employee said. "Americans and their allies' barbaric actions have exposed us and to all the world the reality of their indifference to any peace in the region. I do not think they will be more welcomed in our countries than they are now."

"I am very sad," an engineer said. "Not because I think Iraq will be defeated, but because the world has become a savage place to live in. There exist no more friendly feelings between peoples, but rather hatred, revenge and joy over the sight of people massacred in a futile war."

## Iraqi envoy receives donation

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing Jerusalem societies in Jordan Sunday handed over to the Iraqi ambassador in Amman JD 15,459 as a donation from the people of Jerusalem in Jordan to support Iraq.

The delegation affirmed to the ambassador the confidence of the Jerusalemites in Iraq will emerge victorious in its war and expressed their belief that the liberation of Jerusalem will start from Baghdad.

## World Veterans Federation deplores outbreak of hostilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) has received a letter from the World Veterans Federation (WVF) deploring the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf region.

The WVF is an independent non-governmental organisation representing 60 national organisations around the world. It aims at helping the establishment of peace and security based on respect of international laws and principles.

The letter said the WVF, which has 25 million members who have either fought side by side or

against one another, knows from experience the tragic consequences of the violation of international humanitarian law.

The veterans know that violation brings additional sufferings that could be avoided. The violation could also stir up hatred that in the end is detrimental to those who perpetrate the violation and makes the solution to the conflict all the more difficult and painful, said the letter which was addressed to JESORS director-general retired Major General Mustafa Al Ajlouni.

The letter said that the WVF urgently calls upon all those con-

cerned to fully respect the Geneva conventions and to all the steps set forth in the conventions to enable the International Committee of the Red Cross to accomplish the missions incumbent upon it under international humanitarian law.

JESORS, which groups thousands of former servicemen, carries out different economic projects in the Kingdom and employs as many of the retired servicemen as possible.

The group also takes part in various other activities and supports local organisation programmes.

## Arab Parliamentary Union meets today

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat Sunday condemned the aggression by the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq, and voiced hope that Arab and Muslim countries would do their utmost to repel this brutal Atlantic-American aggression on the Iraqi people, and army.

Arabiyat said the faithful in Iraq and elsewhere in the Arab and Muslim worlds would join ranks to resist this aggression and the forces of evil which seek to dominate the region and subject it to the malignant Zionists and imperialists.

Arabiyat noted that the capacities of the Arab Nation, when they started their hostilities against Iraq.

Arabiyat recalled that Parliament had earlier called for an Arab Parliamentary Union meeting to discuss the Gulf crisis but the call was ignored by the United Arab Emirates, which was the Chairman of the APU.

However, he added, the APU would meet in Algiers Monday in an extraordinary session to discuss the current war currently being waged against Iraq.

The House's speaker did not dismiss the differences in Arab positions, but stressed that the majority of Arab parliamentary units will attend the meeting.

Arabiyat voiced hope that the meeting would come up with specific steps and strategies capable of supporting Iraq and ex-

posing the genuine enemies of the Arab Nation.

Also Sunday, Arabiyat discussed preparations for the Algiers meeting with Deputy Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Ghanem Aziz, and the accompanying delegation.

Arabiyat and Aziz also discussed the latest developments in the Gulf war and the ground battle which started Sunday morning.

Both parliamentary officials voiced hope that the meeting would adopt serious measures towards the aggression on Iraq.

Aziz said the ground battle was expected and Iraq has made its calculations for such battle.

It is a press statement, he said the forces of evil have miscalculated the Iraqi power and capabilities.

Aziz said the course of events and the days to come would prove to the forces of coalition that their calculations were wrong and that they would incur heavy losses.

He hailed Jordan's support of Iraq describing the stand as a true Arab position and a model of brotherhood.

Earlier Sunday, Arabiyat received a cable from his Algerian counterpart. The cable said the Algerian national assembly and the Algerian people voiced their deep concern over the tragic events in Iraq, caused by the American aggression.

The cable expressed the solidarity of the Algerian people with Iraq in its heroic struggle to repulse the imperialist aggression.

## Iraqi aid official meets Gulf Peace Team head

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society's International Affairs Department, Khalid Abdul Hamid, met Sunday with head of the Gulf Peace Team, John Brown.

Abdul Hamid briefed Brown on the brutal acts committed by the U.S.-led alliance forces against civilian targets and the civilian population of Iraq. He also discussed with Brown the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society at the current stage.

Brown briefed Abdul Hamid on the appeals sent by the team to humanitarian organisations in several of the world capitals to provide medicine and medical supplies to the Iraqi society.

Abdul Hamid also met Saturday with the head of the Oxfam charity organisation and reviewed with him the scope of cooperation between the organisation and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

They also discussed the prospects of the organisation's sending water filters to Iraq after the allied forces bombed water purification stations in Iraqi cities and villages.

Abdul Hamid stressed the need for the humanitarian institutions to carry out their humanitarian role in aiding the Iraqi people in the best possible manner and underlined Jordan's National Red Crescent Society's role in assisting the Iraqi society in carrying out its humanitarian role.

## Italian peace group shows strong opposition to war, demands justice, free U.N.

By Odessa Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 30-member Italian peace team now visiting Jordan to express solidarity with the Iraqi, Jordanian and Palestinian people Sunday staged a sit-in at the United Nations office in Amman and later handed Dr. Ali Adnan, permanent U.N. resident representative here, a note to the U.N. Secretary-General.

The protesters voiced their total opposition to the war activities and demanded that the allied forces cease fire and pave the way for a peaceful settlement.

The message delivered to Adnan said that nations of the world facing injustice were bound to set up their own United Nations, free of American influence and hegemony.

In their note, the Italian group said that its members have launched a campaign to raise contributions for the purchase of milk for Iraqi children in a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people now facing American and allied aggression in collusion with the United Nations organisation.

They said that the campaign would continue in Italy for collecting medicines and more milk as well as other basic foods which would be channelled to Iraq through the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

Saturday evening, the Italian group organised a gathering at Amman Philadelphia Hotel attended by Italian women married to Jordanians together with Iraqi children and a group of Iraqi and local personalities including Father Ibrahim Ayyad, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Amman.

Father Ayyad addressed the audience demanding that the United States and its allies show the same degree of anger and hostility to Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian land and to that displayed over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

He said that he came from Beit Shimon, a town occupied by Israel for the past 24 years and one

**505 Mothers...**  
Let us forget the heavy price Our Sons paid for Allied Forces' victories, not so long ago...

Year	War	Casualties
1914-18	World War I	37,508,686 casualties
1939-45	World War II	50,593,153 casualties
1945 today	Hiroshima - Nagasaki	109,000 casualties
1950-53	Korean War	1,827,000 casualties
1956	Suez War	over 3,000 casualties
1957-73	Vietnam	2,316,650 casualties

Aftermathes... Hundreds of Thousands, if not Millions are:  
• Hungry • Dehydrated  
• Homeless • Deformed  
• Humiliated • Demoralized  
• Handicapped • Destitute

And now... "Iraqi Alliance" escalates Human Suffering!  
Their "Desert Storm" with its War Machine!

• Trades our sons' blood for oil...  
• Trades war for negotiations and Peace...  
• Ploughs innocent populations' carcasses for deadly weapons...  
• Escalates manufacture of destructive weapons...  
• Wastes Billions to injure rather than relieve miserable humanity...  
• Leads the World to vast ecological disasters...  
• Manoeuvres UN to legalize terror and implement resolutions contrary to its Charter of Human Rights...  
• Over steps the UN and its resolutions...  
• Halts Killing to achieve Victory!  
• Prags our Sons to Futility, Senseless death!

Let not these warsharks prevail!  
Let us proceed with a World Alliance for PEACE  
Let us activate our own Allied Forces of Peace through PEACE

Ad hoc Committee of Mothers - Jordan

forgotten by the U.N.  
Also addressing the audience was Monsignor Raouf Najjar who represents the Apostolic delegation in Jordan.

Dr. Najjar said that the Vatican has extended support for the Italian peace group in order to achieve peace based on justice in both the Gulf and the holy places of Palestine.

Several Italian women expressed their anger and indignation at the outbreak of the war in the Gulf and demanded that the war be stopped.

They also demanded that the world community find a peaceful formula to settle the Arab-Israeli

conflict and solve the Palestine problem in a just and durable manner.

Last week the Italian peace group staged a sit-in at the Italian embassy here and handed the ambassador a note addressed to the Italian government protesting Italy's support to the coalition arrayed against Iraq.

The group members demanded that the Italian government help end the Gulf conflict by peaceful means.

Following the past two days activities, the group issued the shown leaflet and said that it was being sent to various groups and organisations in Jordan and abroad.

## Foreign workers need police permission to leave

AMMAN (J.T.) — Non-Jordanian workers in Jordan have to report to the Public Security Department's (PSD) Aliens Affairs Department or to the police station which issued their residence permits with their passports for checking and permission to leave the Kingdom, according to a PSD statement issued here Sunday.

The statement said that no non-Jordanian worker living in the country would be allowed to leave before producing a certificate from his employer or sponsor giving him clearance to go.

For this reason, non-Jordanian workers have to report to police departments with their passports in order to leave the country or to leave and return.

The PSD also requested employers to fully cooperate with the PSD and the police in order to deal with issues related to employment of non-Jordanians before permission can be given to any of them to leave so that they would not meet with complications on departure.

According to the PSD statement, the move is being taken in order to safeguard employers' interests in conformity with the Kingdom's aliens' affairs law.

According to Ministry of Labour sources, the country has more than 150,000 foreign workers many of whom are employed illegally at the time when the problem of unemployment is aggravated not only due to the return home of Jordanian expatriates who used to work in the Gulf countries but also due to an economic slowdown resulting in many layoffs.

The Ministry of Labour last June estimated that over 4,500 foreigners were (at the time) illegally employed in bakeries and said that the Vocational Training Corporation was now training local people to take the place of non-Jordanians.

## Cardiac diseases to undergo studies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Adnan Al Jaljoui Sunday chaired a meeting for the Higher Committee for Protection from Cardiac Diseases which discussed causes behind heart diseases in Jordan and a national strategy to help Jordanians protect themselves from such diseases.

A statement later said that heart diseases are caused mainly by smoking, high blood pressure, obesity, tension, diabetes and

tension. The meeting created sub-committees to conduct studies related to carrying out a programme for protection against cardiac diseases and to draw up laws and regulations designed to help stem these diseases.

According to the statement, Jaljoui stressed the need for public support of the national plan so that it can be successfully implemented at the national level.

## Jordan Red Crescent sends 10th medical mission to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Sunday sent to Iraq its 10th mission comprising 14 volunteers who include three doctors and three nurses.

According to the JNRCS Vice-President Mohammad Al Hadid the mission carried 28 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment as well as children's food.

Thabher Hadid, who leads the mission, will deliver the shipment to the Iraqi National Red Crescent Society, said Dr. Hadid in a statement to the Jordan News Agency.

Accompanying the mission is a group representing the Tunisian Red Crescent Society carrying a shipment of relief supplies for the Iraqi people.

According to Dr. Hadid, arrangements have been made to ensure the safe arrival in Iraq of the mission members who will carry out humanitarian services in Iraqi hospitals.

The JNRCS welcomes any donations and in-kind contribution from the public in Jordan, other Arab states, Arab and international organisations, and Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, and will arrange for their dispatch to Iraq, said Hadid. In addition, he said, the JNRCS has started dispatching mail to and from Iraq through the Iraqi National Red Crescent Society.

Dr. Abdul Jalil Al Zawous from Tunisia who is leading the Tunisian team accompanying the JNRCS mission to Baghdad said in a statement that his 23-member group includes doctors and male nurses as well as specialists and technicians who will operate a mobile hospital in Iraq.

Zawous said that his mission, which was organised by the Tunisian Red Crescent Society, can operate in Iraq for two months, drawing from a six-tonne supply of medicines and medical equipment at the disposal of mission members.

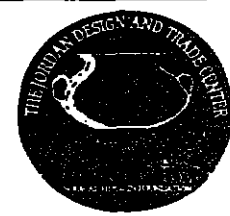
## Islamists call for total boycott, attacks on U.S. and allies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamist bloc at the Lower House of Parliament Sunday called on Arab and Islamic countries not taking part in the aggression against Iraq, to sever their diplomatic relations with the coalition states; and appealed to Iran to take its position alongside the Iraqi forces in this battle.

In a statement, issued Sunday, the bloc requested Arab and Muslim countries supplying the coalition forces with petrol or gas, particularly Iran, Algeria and Libya, to stop sending these supplies and to allow volunteers wishing to fight alongside their Iraqi brothers to do so.

The statement also called on those countries to break the embargo imposed on Iraq by the United Nations Security Council saying that any country that continues to adhere to the Security Council's unjust resolutions will be participating in the killing of Iraqi children, women and the elderly.

The bloc further called on all Arabs and Muslims to strike at American and Western interests and those of the countries taking part in the aggression against Iraq, considering such acts as genuine contributions to the holy war against the tyrant forces.



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## New breed of Arabs

WITH THE beginning of the ground war in the Gulf, the day of reckoning has arrived. Win or lose, both sides have now a final opportunity to wage war for a long time to come. In retrospect, the ground war just unleashed by President George Bush and his generals adds little to the air and missile warfare that was also launched by Washington and its allies more than five weeks ago. Iraq has been fighting that initial stage of the Gulf war at a distinct disadvantage due to superiority of the West in high-tech and aerial and rocketry capabilities. In a sense the ground war was more to Iraq's advantage than to the U.S.-led coalition's. The outcome of this second stage of the Gulf war could be determined in the first few days as Iraq's defence capabilities and preparedness will be put to the real test. From Washington's, London's and Paris' points of view, whether they win on the battlefield or lose, they and their peoples will continue to be haunted by the question of whether the war was really necessary in the first place especially after Iraq had announced its willingness to withdraw from Kuwait expeditiously and unconditionally. The projected high casualties on both sides of the fence will be forever on their consciences. All those lives that could have been spared but were not will have to be accounted for by Messrs Bush, Mitterrand and Major. Moscow does not escape from all of this unscathed either. Having been rebuffed and dismissed by the West as of marginal consequence to the course of events in the Gulf, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's international stature will be undermined and wounded and his country's prestige eroded. After all it was Gorbachev's own peace formula that was spurned and rejected by the coalition leaders.

But all of this is besides the point for now. What matters most to us should be ourselves and the way we are going to handle our own future in the wake of this war. The late Michel Aflaq, President Saddam Hussein's ideological mentor, once remarked that the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq would not doubt create a new breed of Arabs in Iraq. It is this breed of Iraqi Arabs who are now fighting for the free soul of the Arab Nation. It is they who are making the huge sacrifices for the sake of our true independence, integrity and progress. This Arab fighting spirit that Iraq is representing today will not disappear or go away regardless of what the results of the war are. The Iraqis have our total support — in victory or defeat — not only as fellow Arabs and Muslims, but also as the genuine defenders of the human will to survive and be free, in dignity and honour. May God protect Iraq and its people. Victory will be theirs even if they have to suffer.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The ground battle which the United States started in the Gulf will mark the beginning of a long chain of defeats for the aggressors, and the beginning of the end of America's reputation and credibility, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. As for the American and allied forces fighting the Iraqis, they can by no means find the way strewn with roses but rather a hell towards which Bush and his allies had sent them to die, the paper noted. The ground battle is no more than another chapter of the long history of continued aggression on the Arab and Islamic nations by the West, designed to impose total hegemony on the Arabs and their future and maintain Israel's superiority and ensure its continued existence at the expense of the Arab people, the paper continued. Al Ra'i said that the American president can by no means win the support of the American people in a presidential election because of the sufferings he had caused to the majority of the families of this nation as a result of this devastating war. Bush can never again stand before his nation and say that he has worked for peace because his acts speak louder than his words, and because the realities felt by the Americans cannot be changed by their president's rhetoric, the paper noted. The Americans must have realised by now that the war in the Gulf is being directed by Israel and is aimed to safeguard Zionist interests in the region, and that the American troops being killed in battle are only tools to help achieve Israel's objectives, the paper said. The paper said that the aggression led by the United States is bound to open the way for a long and hard struggle between the forces of evil on the one hand and the Arabs and Muslims on the other, and will last for a long time to come.

Al Dostour Sunday drew attention to the fact that Israel's leaders had been demanding from the United States to destroy Iraq's military capability before a settlement can be reached in the Gulf, and sure enough the U.S. administration has responded to this demand and embarked on a devastating war on Baghdad. The paper said that America's bombardment of Iraqi civilians and Iraqi economic and cultural centres came only to please Israel and to protect Zionist interests, and therefore the war was inevitable and the victims are bound to all on both sides. The U.S. administration, by way of pleasing its Israeli ally, has refused all peace bids, and turned down all Soviet proposals designed to bring the war to an end; and finally it committed its troops to the ground battle in which they will die for the sake of serving Israel's interests, the paper noted. The Israeli prime minister has been insisting that Iraq's military power should be destroyed; and Bush has succumbed to Israel's demand, and committed his nation and America's credibility and interests in order to please the Zionist state and win its favour and those of the Jewish supporters in the United States, the paper continued. Therefore, we regard this devastating war and this aggression on Iraq as a mission designated by Israel; and we consider the United States and all the nations supporting it in the Gulf war as agents and mercenaries trying to help Israel achieve its goals and objectives in the Arab area, the paper added. But it said that the war is bound to take other dimensions and will sooner or later involve all those honourable Arabs and Muslims who are determined to defend their lands and holy places against the aggression and against evil forces.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# End of fighting will be followed by series of international litigations

MOST probably the military war in the Gulf region will be followed by economic warfare. Washington, London and Paris, as well as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are already preparing for such a war with an inflated list of economic losses for which they seek compensation from Iraq. This is not to mention the economic and military sanctions, declared or otherwise, that these countries may exercise against Baghdad. As the declared intention is to destroy Iraq and render it impotent for all intents and purposes, it stands to reason that economic and fiscal warfare against Iraq will continue in order to bring down the regime and swap it for a subservient one which is docile and accommodating to them. A ceasefire in the Gulf and even a political resolution of the Kuwaiti situation is bound to leave scores of issues that would require resolution. Above all, the Western countries will continue to be haunted by a deep-rooted desire to settle few scores with Iraq, especially if they fail to achieve their primary objective, namely, the complete elimination of Iraq as a regional power.

Iraq, therefore, must regroup and prepare itself for the future battles that would have to be fought. First of all it too needs to prepare its list for reparations from the allied countries. On the top of such a list should be compensation for all the civilian targets that were damaged or destroyed by the allies' aerial and missile bombardments throughout the fighting war. In this vein, Iraq has a solid legal case against Washington and London in particular for

deliberately bombing civilian targets in contravention of U.N. Security Council Resolution 678. There is no way that Bush and Major administrations can successfully argue that bombing and destroying electric, water or sanitation facilities in Iraq comes within the scope of Resolution 678 which allowed them to take the necessary measures to realise an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Cutting off water and electricity from the people of Iraq can never be legally accepted as part and parcel of the intended measures condoned by the council for the removal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. If there is any doubt about the true intentions of the members of the council who participated in the debate on Resolution 678 and took part in its adoption, then in conformity with established legal practice, the records of their meeting should be open again to make clear once and for all the actual intentions and purposes of the Security Council in adopting that resolution.

Still, at one stage or another, this matter of bombing targets in Iraq that served civilians will have to be adjudicated before the International Court of Justice. Baghdad may very well have to resort to that international tribunal for determining the legal consequences of such bombardments of such obvious non-military targets. The spread of infectious diseases in Iraq because of the bombardment of essential services there is something from which the countries of the alliance cannot escape responsibility and the place to determine their guilt and responsibility will have to be at

the International Court of Justice. In this context, this international tribunal may also be invited to adjudicate the 'accusations', and counter accusations levelled by the antagonists in the Gulf war about the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Washington, and London in particular are busy repeating charges that Iraq has committed war crimes in Kuwait. In return such capitals must likewise be prepared to answer charges that they have wantonly and recklessly killed many civilians numbering in the thousands in open contravention of the Geneva Conventions. The international community has a vested interest in prosecuting these charges and counter charges so the record can be set clear and straight. The hundreds of Iraqi civilians killed in a shelter in Baghdad 2 weeks ago by allied bombing is not only a war crime but also a crime against humanity for which the direct and indirect perpetrators of such bombing will have to account criminally and economically.

Thus, the ending of the fighting war in the Gulf is not going to end all other contentious wars between the antagonists. The next few months, if not years, will most likely be highlighted by a series of litigations between Iraq and its war enemies until there is a broad agreement between them on how to handle the reparations issue and the matter of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the course of the war.

## Bush gambles presidency on quick success of ground war

By Gene Gibbens  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. President George Bush's order for a massive ground campaign to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait is a politically risky bid to score a swift and decisive victory in the nearly five-week-old Gulf war.

If his gamble succeeds, analysts say Bush will be a shoo-in for a second four-year term in the 1992 U.S. presidential election. His conduct of the war so far has boosted his job approval rating to the highest level in the history of U.S. opinion polling.

But if the attack becomes a horrific campaign fraught with images of body bags and weeping relatives back home, Bush will have to explain why he chose to escalate the war when diplomacy seemed to offer a glimmer of hope of resolving the conflict.

Critics will likely accuse him of overreaching in much the same

way General Douglas MacArthur did in the Korean war when he insisted on crushing North Korean forces after reversing their invasion of South Korea in 1950.

This brought Chinese troops into the war, which ended in stalemate two years later after more than 50,000 American troops were killed in action.

Bush acted less than 12 hours after Baghdad ignored a noon deadline Washington time (1700 GMT) Saturday for withdrawing from the tiny Gulf state that it occupied last August 2.

He was spending the weekend at the presidential hideaway Camp David in the nearby Maryland mountains, a secluded woodland of hiking trails and trout streams half a world away from the sands of Saudi Arabia, as the deadline passed.

A flurry of Soviet-sponsored diplomatic activity came to naught after the United States said Iraq's acceptance of the Kremlin's softer terms for a pull-

out was "without effect."

In the hours after the deadline, the White House went into what Bush might call its "silent mode," the quiet period that usually foreshadows an explosion of activity.

The explosion came a few hours after night fell on the U.S. capital with news that allied troops were on the move and the long-awaited land war had begun.

After rushing back to the White House by helicopter, Bush told his countrymen on television: "The liberation of Kuwait has now entered its final phase."

He said he had directed Operation Desert Storm Commander General Norman Schwarzkopf "to use all forces available, including ground forces, to eject the Iraqi army from Kuwait."

Ironically, in the first months of his presidency, Bush was criticised for being too cautious. But he has not shied away from using force as an instrument of U.S. policy.

He used paratroopers and air

power to overthrow Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega little more than a year ago, provided air cover to help Philippine President Corazon Aquino survive a coup in late 1989 and sent troops to El Salvador in an effort to rescue some Americans during another 1989 crisis.

He showed the mailed fist again less than a day after a January 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq to get out of Kuwait expired, launching a massive air war in the Gulf that paved the way for the ground campaign.

In a televised interview aired last December, Bush made it clear he was ready to stake his presidency on reducing the Iraqi threat when he called the Kuwait invasion the biggest challenge to civilisation since the rise of Nazi Germany.

"It's that big: it's that important — nothing of this moral importance since World War II," he said.

## U.S. president will face tough questions if war is bloody

By Alan Elsner  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — If there are heavy casualties in the U.S. Gulf war ground attack, President George Bush will face tough questions from allies, adversaries and most of all from the American people after it is over.

The big question will be: was it worth sacrificing lives, both American and Iraqi, to speed up the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait by a mere two weeks?

As Bush issued an ultimatum for Iraq to withdraw all its forces from Kuwait within a week, he already had in his pocket Baghdad's agreement to a Soviet plan that would have involved a withdrawal within three weeks.

So why were the extra two

weeks so important?

One answer is that Bush wanted to demonstrate to the world, and especially to Arab countries where Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has millions of admirers, just who won the war and who lost it.

Another was that he was determined to make the same point to the Soviet Union.

"The United States, which has sacrificed blood and treasure to thwart Iraqi aggression, is committed to achieving its objectives in the Gulf in full," said John Hannah of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

That meant no compromises with Iraq, no negotiations and no face-saving devices, especially if they were brokered by a country which took no part in the war.

"Bush's attitude is that to the

victor should go the spoils," said a Western diplomat.

But Bush is still taking a risk. Americans have become accustomed to watching what appears to be a largely painless conflict from their point of view. U.S. losses have been light.

That could change, with shocking effect. Even a weakened Iraqi army might inflict hundreds, possibly thousands, of casualties in a ground war. Critics will be eager to place their blood on Bush's conscience.

Soviet Middle East envoy Yevgeny Primakov, at the heart of Moscow's peace efforts, expressed this forcefully.

"It is perfectly clear that Saddam Hussein has, for the first time, confirmed the fact that he, without any conditions, without any reservations, completely and

fully will withdraw his troops from Kuwait."

"Why should we start now this large-scale operation that will take a heavy toll in human lives, when everything seems to have been done already?" he said.

In a New York Times article on Saturday, Lee Hamilton, a Democratic member of the House of Representatives, pleaded with Bush not to launch a ground offensive.

Referring to the Soviet initiative, he wrote: "The stakes are too high to pass up a real opportunity to end the war. We are winning the war but if we now close the door on diplomacy to end the war, we will make the peace more difficult."

Bush administration officials believe the exact opposite.

## Gulf war changes the picture of Egyptian television

By Sara El Gamal  
Reuters

CAIRO — When the Gulf war erupted many Egyptians sat glued for hours to television sets — unaccustomed to the up-to-the-minute, on-the-spot reporting of the conflict.

"You couldn't move me from the television set at the start of the war," said Mohammad Essam, 29, a government employee.

The Gulf war and the arrival of Cable News Network (CNN), the round-the-clock U.S. news station, prompted a major shake-up in state-run Egyptian television.

There are still plenty of patriotic songs, presidential speeches and official military analyses, but there is also a lot of factual news and uncensored pictures.

And there are none of the inflated claims of victory issued in past Middle East wars.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait last August was reported immediately and in full by Egypt's official media.

Media policy-makers say CNN, introduced recently for several hours a day on a three-month trial, is not the reason Egyptian TV is running more

edies and love songs.

In an effort to ensure Egyptians watch state TV news, CNN's broadcasting hours on a vacant channel have been curtailed. It is now shut down while Egyptian news is screened.

A senior western diplomat in the anti-Iraq alliance said: "that was probably quite a shrewd choice. I'm not convinced that 24-hour CNN was good for Egyptian public opinion."

Still, Egyptians can see enough CNN to compare what their national station is telling them with a western version.

A gap remains. While Egyptians were able to see on CNN heart-rendering pictures of charred bodies after a bombing raid on Iraq by U.S. warplanes, Egyptian TV omitted them altogether from its news broadcasts.

Magdy, a former army commander, is among those critical of Egyptian media coverage of the Gulf war.

"Our news programmes are too long and monotonous," he said. "It's the same thing every day. Even newspaper headlines are the same each day."

Khaled Osman, an accountant, said he listened to foreign graphic news, including footage of bomb damage in Iraq.

"It is an open world now. There are no secrets any more," said Deputy Information Minister Mamdouh Bel-tagi.

appeals to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to avoid destruction by leaving Kuwait are rerun frequently.

"It is to make clear to the people that Egypt's position on the Iraqi invasion is the same and hasn't changed," Serry said.

## Police clash with war protesters

EGYPTIAN riot police fired tear-gas Sunday at hundreds of stone-throwing students protesting against the Gulf war, witnesses said.

They said hundreds of riot police sealed off streets leading to Cairo University when students charged out of the campus in an anti-war protest.

The students later gathered on the campus shouting Allahu Akbar and hurling stones at the police, who replied with tear-gas.

Witnesses said students started gathering on the campus about noon (1000 GMT). They listened to speeches denouncing the United States and the alliance before marching off the campus.

Nawal Serry, head of television news programming, said state TV tried to be objective, give official figures and put forward Egypt's position.

Excerpts from President Hosni Mubarak's speeches and

Egypt has sent 35,000 troops to the Gulf and state TV adopted a serious tone once the war began, dropping some entertainment shows, commercial stations because they gave news in brief. He criti-

cised Egyptian broadcasters for saying "the allies reported", but Iraq "claimed and alleged."

"This is not objectivity. I am 100 per cent behind President (Hosni) Mubarak in his Gulf policy but I don't need to be told how to think," he said.

Hoda Yehia, a psychologist, said: "Everyday, CNN carries briefings by the British and the Americans. Everything it is the same, so many sorties were made and so on."

"We need variety, not just war news," she said. "CNN's war coverage was good at the beginning," said Sara Abdul Ghaffar, a teacher. "Now I feel it seems one-sided — pro-American and pro-(U.S. President George) Bush."

Earlier, some Egyptians praised CNN for its objectivity and ability to get quick reaction on breaking news stories. A cartoon in the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper, one of several on CNN coverage, reflected a certain public weariness now.

It depicted two beggars in rags sitting in a Cairo street.

One says to the other: "I'm fed up with war news. I only follow the stock market on CNN nowadays."

Some Egyptians say CNN is repetitive and alarmist, and they cite incidents of apparent ignorance of the Middle East.

For example they noted it had experts expressing surprise that Iraq had not cut ties with Syria when it severed relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Syria and Iraq had no diplomatic ties.

Some Egyptians were angered by the coverage when a single U.S. servicewoman went missing. They said CNN blew up the issue, assumed she had fallen into enemy hands and interviewed people to ask what would happen to her.

"It was unnecessary and showed irresponsibility," said Maha Mahmoud, a housewife. "Think what her parents must have suffered and the report was not even confirmed."

But Umm Fatma, a mother of five who neither speaks nor understands English and watches CNN at her neighbour's flat, said: "This new channel is nice. It has nice pictures and the broadcasters are attractive."

## LETTERS

### House made of glass

To the Editor:

IT would have been frustrating if it were not so laughable: Israelis on the beach, complaining to U.S. TV about the "big bully" (according to them Iraqi president Saddam Hussein), whom they "want the sheriff (presumably president George Bush) to come and deal with." It was not so long ago when British demonstrators demanded the arrest of Menachem Begin, during his first visit to the U.K. as Israel's prime minister, for his terrorist activities in Palestine on which he was still charged and "wanted." To a land run by the inventors of terrorism in the Middle East and still governed by its principles, all I can say is this: "Those who live in glass houses..."

Alia Mint Al Hussein,  
Amman.

### Forgive us

To the Editor:

THE President of the United States asked the nation to pray for peace last Sunday. I would like to share my prayer with you. Our Heavenly Father, maker of us all, thank you for this beautifully designed world "of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, (your) hands these wonders wrought." What a privilege you offer us, the many, diverse peoples of this earth, to care for this world. Life in your worlds is honour and blessing. Thank you, God.

Today and for many days to come we especially seek your guidance and forgiveness; we have sinned: Forgive us for teaching our children and each other that war is an acceptable, useful method of problem solving; forgive us for blindly, unquestioningly following the powerful and for doubting the patriotism of those who do challenge the methods and goals of their leaders; Forgive us for bribery, treachery, and deceit used on many nations to forge a so-called alliance; forgive us for sending our fellow countrymen off to fight and die, rather than accepting the burdens and responsibilities of our own beliefs; forgive us for priding ourselves with "smart bombs" that not only destroy buildings, but also annihilate your people; forgive us for providing gas masks to only some of your children, abandoning some whose land we covet; forgive us for making oil, gas, and material benefits more important than each other and life's necessities; forgive us for enjoying the testing and success of our weapons of destruction; please forgive us, Father, we are sinning still.

Our Heavenly Father, we do set our sights on lofty, loving goals. We do seek a home and better life for Palestinians, the freedom of Kuwait, a just sharing of oil reserves, a just sharing of seaports, and more respect and honouring of all the world's peoples. But we are weak in our methods and terribly proud. Our pride allows us to see righteousness of our "enemy's" positions. Oh God, we need your light and wisdom; please show us the way. Show us how to abandon our smart bombs of destruction and affirm the truly smart bombs of light and love.

God, please, "show us how to love each other." We need you, God. Amen.

Penelope J. Campbell,  
981 Worton Park Drive,  
Mayfield Vill. Oh. 44043.



## Leadership and conflict between Iraq and U.S.

Mr. Izzat Dajani

THE war in the Gulf is shaping up in a most striking pattern. It is exposing leadership trends as much as personal attitudes and reflections. Conflict resolution is becoming increasingly complex and highly charged. Choices and consequences are becoming dramatically tangled.

There are two recognised essentials to power and leadership. They are motive and resource, and both are inter-related. It is equally important to note that leadership is a special form of power. Harold Lasswell's classic formula states that the power holder may be the person whose private motives are displaced onto public objects and rationalised in terms of public interest. The current American president was best described, by fellow Americans among others, as "the whimp" during his eight-year tenure as vice-president. He had weak personality, was uncharismatic, indecisive, and totally dominated by the then eloquent president, Ronald Reagan. However, this "whimp" turned into a "tiger" when the full power resources became available to him, and under his full disposal, as he was elected president.

Lasswell's formula seems to describe his performance in a most classical form. He dramatically personalised the Gulf war and reflected categorically his personal attitude and deep-rooted disrespect to the Iraqi leadership. He transformed his views and private motives in such a mode so as to show, and seem to reflect, a compliance with public interest at large.

The power resources available to the American president are enormous. They range from political to economic, military, social, psychological and institutional. The "power wielders" draw from their power bases resources relevant to their own motives and the motives of others upon whom they exercise power. President Bush needed the motive, so as to move these power resources, and what better motive was there than the Iraqi drive into Kuwait? So as to influence his motives upon his population in particular, and the world community at large, he spoke of Iraq's threat to world peace. He highlighted the dangers Iraq posed to the energy needs of the U.S. and the

industrialised world. He tried to draw resemblance between President Saddam and Hitler so as to capitalise on the world's hatred of the Nazi leader. He spoke of the "big fish" eating the small one and of the lost humanity and democracy, terms that are quite dear, if superficially, to people in the West. Bush's personal crusade against Iraq's president was reflected in nearly every presidential directive and move. His spontaneous rejection of Iraq's Feb. 15 peace initiative showed the dramatic dimension of this personalised conflict.

Iraq's leadership controls significantly less capital resources than the U.S. but its commitment carries deep rooted social, religious, cultural and institutional orders. The psychological bonding between Iraq's "power wielders" and the populace at large is dramatic in intensity. The Iraqi president exercised true leadership, possessed deep convictions, and enjoyed massive support and following. This posed a threat to President Bush and intensified his rejection of Iraq's role expressed in Iraq's leader, as the new formula of pan-Arabism and nationalism.

It may be interesting to note in this context America's social psychology and its attitude to conflicts. Americans, by tradition and historical reference, seem to opt to tackle easily accomplished targets. When they cannot fight hard-core drugs, they wage a crusade against cigarette smoking and make it a menace for the American to smoke. If they choose to fight drugs after all, they do so in other countries and use those countries' human and other resources — neglecting that the true problem starts with the end-user, who is in the USA after all. When they need to invade, they enjoy meagre countries such as Panama or Grenada. When the fight gets bigger they get stuck with the consequences and use "negative" public opinion, as a reason to withdraw "gracefully". Vietnam was the best example of this. Americans favoured their self-bestowed privileges: They enjoyed being the world's largest debtor while maintaining very high standards of living. They claimed prosperity while there were over 30 million Americans living below the poverty line.

They claimed capitalism while millions could not afford health insurance and many more remained homeless. They claimed democracy and valued independence while being colonised by Jews and the state of Israel. America has always been the country of many controversies. The danger of being exposed came about by the challenge President Hussein posed.

The American president is employing a strategy of pure conflict in the present Gulf war. This leads to a preclusion of any meeting of the minds. He is not trying to create any coordination that involves trying to understand Iraq's point of view, and thus search for shared clues. The American president is constantly using threats with the clear intention of keeping his opponent from starting anything that may work in favour of a resolution. He is clearly opting for "no-solution" as his hidden motive remains the destruction of Iraq and particularly its leadership. He is refusing to consider his BATNA (best alternative to a negotiated agreement) as, according to Harvard Professor Roger Fisher, this gives one the advantage of being flexible enough to permit the exploration of imaginative solutions which might meet the bottom line of both parties and satisfy their respective interests. Personal hatred seemed to obscure vision, but no one dared to confront the new-found American tiger.

Fred C. Ikle wrote in *How Nations Negotiate* about methods employed in dissuading the opponent from further bargaining which seems to explain President Bush's behaviour in this war.

"To dissuade your opponent from further bargaining becomes your objective. The most important tactic is to demonstrate to your opponent that your terms are unlikely to become more advantageous to him. A useful device is a commitment not to change your terms or not to accept the opponent's demands. A related technique is to make the opponent fear that one's terms, far from moving closer, might actually harden."

Isn't this the tragic personalisation of events in the Gulf war? If so, then the whole world deserves a responsible conclusion.

GMT Saturday deadline to begin withdrawal.

The allied air, sea and ground offensive began just six hours after Mr. Bush's deadline passed.

"The council has tried to do all it can, but in a difficult and complicated situation it is difficult to come up with answers," Council President Simbarashe S. Mumbengegwi of Zimbabwe said.

Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon called the council "a joke" and said it had been manipulated by the United States and failed to fulfill its obligation to make peace.

By R.W. Apple

RIYADH — If it comes to slugging it out on the ground, will the Saudi army fight? U.S. officials and others have been asking that question for months, and now with increasing frequency.

Its importance is not so much military as political; the performance of the far more numerous U.S., British, French, and Egyptian troops will count for more on the battlefield, but how the Saudis do in pushing hostile forces back from their borders will constitute an important test of national will.

"The Saudi air force is solid," a Western diplomat said. "The first pilot to shoot down two enemy planes was a Saudi, and that didn't come as much of a surprise here. Being a pilot is a princely sort of thing to do; it attracts well-educated, capable people. But the land forces, no. They'll be visible in

the battle, but we're certainly not counting on them much, not even after Khafji."

In the battle at Khafji, which produced the only sustained ground fighting of the war to date, Saudi forces, with heavy backing from Qatari armoured vehicles and U.S. Marine Corps reconnaissance, artillery, close air support, and anti-tank helicopters, drove the Iraqis back. The Saudis have about 65,000 personnel on active duty.

"Wherever you turn in the Gulf, you find confidence that our people can fight," said Ghazi Gosaibi, a Saudi diplomat and writer in a typical post-Khafji comment. He said that the war was proving the toughness of the thinly populated kingdoms, and emirates in the Gulf, showing that "these are not just sheikhs getting their legitimacy through oil."

But marines who took part in the fight at Khafji and others who serve with them near the Kuwaiti border are less sanguine.

"They took their time getting in there," one officer said. "They were — they always are — extremely cautious about engaging, although individual soldiers showed a considerable amount of bravery."

"For several nights, they didn't even show up" at a vital highway checkpoint, said a marine sergeant whose squad was assigned, along with a Saudi unit, to man it. "When they did show up, they just sat in the tent and waved people through to our position. Now we have made them stand on the road, but they aren't as vigilant as we want them to be. They leave their posts a lot in the middle of the night. Turn around, they're gone."

A sergeant who has worked intensively with Saudi infantrymen on the firing range said none came close to hitting the bull's-eye. "They had trouble hitting the target," he said.

All around Saudi encampments in the desert are parked rows of new Toyotas and full-

sized U.S. cars. They belong to the soldiers, who hop into them whenever they can and head into town, shedding their uniforms. Officers spend much of their time attending to business interests in the rear, said Western military attaches who know the Saudi army well.

The problem has been around since the army's inception.

"As fiercely independent individuals who survived on the desert for centuries with nothing but their own wits and fortitude," wrote Sandra Mackey in "The Saudis," speaking on peacetime troops, "the Saudis are not about to submit to the discipline of the army. Family and tribe remain the centre of any Saudi's existence, and for this reason it is difficult to keep the military recruits the country does have at their posts."

Major General Paul Schwartz, on his second tour of duty in Saudi Arabia — this time he is coordinating coalition forces — spoke guardedly

about the Saudi army, emphasising that some units are better than others, referring to "attitudinal and psychological problems" and insisting that it was unfair to compare Saudi and U.S. troops.

"They are trained and up and ready to fight," he said. "By regional standards, they are qualified and able to defeat this enemy."

Nonetheless, anecdotal evidence of difficulties abounds. It is hard to see how the slim population base — about 8 million by latest estimate — could produce armed forces large enough to protect a mostly barren nation as big as India from a concerted attack by outsiders. The only solution was to buy high-tech weapons, use foreigners for support jobs in the military as they are used in civil life — and to develop allies who would send help when it was needed.

That is what Saudi Arabia has done in the last 15 years or so — New York Times

## Saudi ground force: will it stand and fight?

## High-tech war of communications

By Robert J. Lofton

THE EARLY wave of Gulf war "euphoria" which President Bush cautioned Americans against seemed to have evaporated even before the bombing of a civilian-packed Iraqi air-raid shelter. But Bush himself has been of the forefront of a more sustained military version of what he decries, of an all-consuming technological euphoria. Whether in the air or on the ground, the performance of the new, hi-tech generation of weapons has dominated everyone's perceptions of the war.

The communications revolution has taken us amazingly close to the war zone but, psychologically speaking, further than ever from the war. Rather than death or suffering, we are exposed to images and technical details concerning profoundly impressive weaponry.

What we see is the advanced F-117 Stealth fighter-bomber with its infra-red night time equipment, the bomb released from it so "smart" that it can be guided down the air shaft of the specific building targeted, the Tomahawk cruise missile able to "see" even in darkness

by means of a tiny television camera mounted on its nose, and the M1A1 tanks fitted with state-of-the-art "reactive armour" to direct explosions outward, especially those coming from chemical warheads.

Television correspondents struggle gamely with the technology they are supposed to be explaining to us. They and their producers, in turn, call upon the help of retired generals, admirals and reigning geopolitical theorists who can speak with greater authority on technical details and the larger impact of the weapons. A classroom atmosphere takes over as the weapon gurus, often with the help of elaborate audio-visual aids, convey their truths.

Viewers become conscientious students. We are pleased, to fill in gaps in our knowledge, to gain some understanding in the kinds of technical areas that had always seemed impenetrable to our minds. We feel ourselves transported to an esoteric realm — for the first time privy to the secrets of a mystery cult. Like everyone else we are dazzled by the demonstrated "precision" and "pinpoint accuracy." In a word, we are fascinated.

More than that, the television medium permits us to participate in the war. The planes, missiles, and tanks, the desert sand and Baghdad targets, become part of the furniture not only of our living room but of our minds. We plunge into the excitement of war, the intensification of life in the face of death, all without personal risk — that is, without the death.

We become one with the pilot who describes his sortie over Baghdad as "fantastic," and compares the scene to the most brilliant 4th of July fireworks demonstration. We may even become one with the heroic technology.

But the arrangement turns out to be imperfect. The pilot injects a human factor when, during a brief portion of an interview, he notes that the Iraqi counterpart whose plane he blew up "probably had a family like I do." We witness the special fear of chemical warfare as Americans, others from the coalition, and Israelis rush to put on their gas masks when threatened by Scud missiles whose warheads may not be "conventional."

We see the terror in the faces of captured pilots, who have surely been subjected to

fierce psychological and physical duress, as they mouth, robot-like, the platitudes that will enable them to survive. And we anticipate the carnage — the pictures of dead and wounded Americans and Iraqis — that will inevitably accompany a ground war and will somehow reach us, whatever the efforts of the Pentagon to keep such images from the American public.

But before we are able to reflect too much on what our own missiles and our "surgical" and carpet bombing might be doing to other human beings called Iraqis — or what ground fighting does to all combatants — we have thrust before us on television screens more evidence of technological marvels that both protect us and unfavourably strike enemy targets.

We do well to ask ourselves what is happening to us right now, Americans in particular, and television audiences throughout the world, are undergoing varying degrees of dissociation, the splitting or inner division of parts of the individual mind, in this case a separation of knowledge from feeling. We know that our weapons are murderous, but

we cannot afford to feel the pain and death at the other side of them.

This form of dissociation can be called psychic numbing, the diminished capacity or inclination to feel. It can be evoked all too easily, consciously and unconsciously, when one's adversary is himself as ruthless as Saddam Hussein. But the human costs — the unnecessary killing and the moral degradation — can match any brought about by that enemy. Vietnam veterans I worked with two decades ago spoke of the painful process of "learning to feel" and "becoming human again." That re-humanisation is already the task of not only U.S. leaders but much of the population of our country and of other countries throughout the world. As an Arab-American in the midst of prayer recently put the matter, "I really feel the pain of being human."

Robert J. Lofton is distinguished professor of psychiatry and psychology at the City University of New York and director of the Centre On Violence And Human Survival. The article is reprinted from the Guardian.

## Non-coalition

(Continued from page 1)

"Tunisia urges the world conscience and peace-loving forces to work to stop hostilities and put an end to this frightful drama," the statement added.

"Tunisia reiterates its total solidarity and deep sympathy with the brotherly Iraqi people which is the object of an operation of continued global destruction of its human and material potential."

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) urged the Soviet Union, China and Arab, Islamic and

non-aligned countries to help Iraq confront assault.

A statement issued after a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee said: "The Palestinian people is firmly at the side of Iraq, resistance and heroism against this planned aggression by the American administration and its allies."

## U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

faulty because the withdrawal timetable was too slow, among other problems. U.S. President George Bush gave Iraq a 1700

## Soviets

(Continued from page 1)

said Sunday at a news conference.

"There have been a number of occasions on which Iraq has indicated its willingness to cooperate and come out of Kuwait, which have been brushed aside," he said. "And this is a culmination of that."

China, which has tried to stay neutral in the Gulf conflict, said it deeply regretted the ground offensive launched against Iraq

troops.

"While the hopes for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf conflict were recently raised, the war that the world's people were loath to see has nevertheless escalated," the Foreign Ministry said.

"The Chinese government hereby expresses its deep regret," said the statement.

China called on the warring countries to act with restraint and urged all involved to reach a peaceful solution.

Earlier urged the United States not to reject the Soviet initiative.

China was the only permanent member of the U.N. Security Council not to vote in favour of the use of force against Iraq. But it condemned the Iraqi invasion and joined economic sanctions against Baghdad.

In Tokyo, men wearing gas masks distributed anti-war leaflets as some 1,200 people rallied in a park, calling for the United States and Iraq to halt the fighting. They urged Japan to drop plans to contribute \$9 billion to the allied forces.

Pope John Paul II, in his regular public Sunday noon prayers,

said the Holy See "did all it could to avoid this terrible war. Now all it can do is work and pray so that it ends as soon as possible and so that similar sorrowful tragedies disappear from the horizons of humanity."

The Indian government said it "deeply regrets that the chance afforded by the (Soviet peace) proposals and Iraq's commitment to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait was not seized and a ground war on a scale unprecedented since the second world war has commenced."

"We shudder to think of its

consequences — the further destruction and devastation of Kuwait and Iraq, infliction of massive suffering on their peoples and larger scale loss of innocent lives," the Foreign Ministry said in New Delhi.

The statement accused unnamed members of the Security Council of scuttling last-minute efforts to forge a peace agreement.

It said India, a non-permanent council member, had urged the Security Council to remain in continuing emergency session,

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## Arsenal steps up pressure on post-Dalglish Liverpool

LONDON (R) — The shock resignation of Liverpool manager Keeney Dalglish has left the English champions in disarray as they enter their most crucial week of the season.

Dalglish's departure Friday was followed by Saturday's 3-1 defeat at the hands of relegation-threatened Luton and the loss of the league leadership to Arsenal.

Caretaker Manager Ronnie Moran now faces the daunting prospect of motivating his bewildered players for Wednesday's Football Association (F.A.) Cup fifth round second replay against Everton and next Sunday's league showdown with Arsenal.

Moran was philosophical about Saturday's defeat on Luton's plastic pitch where Liverpool have not won since October 1987. "I've taken everything into consideration about the last few days and I've not had a go at anyone," he said.

"They (the players) are devastated and I am glad about it. They know how they have played but it's my job to lift them for the cup replay against Everton Wednesday."

But 55-year-old Moran, who has been on the Liverpool staff as player and coach since 1952, faces

the uncertainty of not knowing how long he will hold the reins at Anfield.

"The chairman (Noel White) has given me a role to play and I'll be talking to him again Monday," he said.

Dalglish ascribed his resignation to the pressure he was putting himself under to succeed. But ironically Dalglish's achievements make him an almost impossible act to follow.

The 39-year-old Scot guided Liverpool to three championships and two F.A. Cup wins in his six years in charge, putting him almost on a par with the legendary Bill Shankly in the eyes of the soccer-mad folk of Merseyside.

It was Shankly who initiated Liverpool's domination of English soccer almost three decades ago.

Liverpool's successes continued, first under Bob Paisley, who took them to their first European Cup triumph in 1977, and then under Joe Fagan.

Fagan and Paisley both inherited the manager's job after long spells at the club and Moran, another trusty lieutenant, may have expected to take over when Fagan stepped down in 1985.

But Dalglish was appointed in the immediate aftermath of the Heysel disaster and Moran remained in the shadows.

He must now wait to see whether his time has come or whether he will again be passed over for a younger man.

Club captain Alan Hansen, 35, his career seemingly finished by a knee injury, is one strong candidate while former Liverpool striker John Toshack, sacked this season by Real Madrid, is also being tipped for the post.

F.A. Cup rivals Everton, who shared a thrilling 4-4 draw with Liverpool last Wednesday in Dalglish's final match in charge, and league leaders Arsenal will now seek to cash in on the uncertainty.

Arsenal, who pipped Liverpool for the title in 1989, underlined their awesome league form by brushing aside third-placed Crystal Palace 4-0 Saturday.

The North London side have suffered only one league defeat in 25 games and would be clear leaders had they not lost two points after a brawl during a game at Manchester United earlier in the season.

As it is, they and Liverpool are locked together on 54 points in a two-horse race for the title.

## Dele wins WBA crown

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe (AP) — Gilbert Dele of France won the vacant World Boxing Association (WBA) junior middleweight title as he stopped Carlos Elliott in the seventh round of a scheduled 12-round fight Saturday.

Dele, the European champion, is unbeaten in 27 fights with one draw. Elliott, an American fighting out of Japan, is now 26-3.

Under a hot Caribbean sun in an outdoor stadium with temperatures more than 30 degrees Celsius (88 Fahrenheit), Dele wore down Elliott with a barrage of punches throughout the fight. He knocked the rest of the way until Elliott collapsed in the seventh round after a solid right by Dele.

As Elliott was turning, Dele scored again with a right to the head that sent Elliott flat to the canvas. The fight ended without a count by the referee.

Elliott had to be taken from the ring on a stretcher after not being able to move for about 10 minutes following the knockdown.

The WBA junior middleweight title was vacated by Julian Jackson of Jamaica. He moved up to take the World Boxing Council (WBC) middleweight crown last November.

American Terry Norris, who recently beat Sugar Ray Leonard at Madison Square Garden in New York, is the World Boxing Council champion.

Elliott has fought out of Japan since his professional debut in March 1983. A former U.S. Air sergeant at the Misawa Air Base in Japan, Elliott is married to a Japanese woman and is the father of three.

He won the Orient and Pacific Federation (OPF) title in April, 1987 but lost it a year later. He regained the OPF title in December before finally getting a world title chance.

But he was no match for Dele. Dele, born in Guadeloupe but living in France for 27 years, took control of the fight from the start. He scored with straight lefts at the start of the fight.

In the third, Elliott went down early when he was off balance when Dele caught him coming forward. Elliott took a mandatory eight count.

A minute later Dele caught Elliott with a solid right that sent him to the canvas again. Elliott was up quickly but stayed out of danger for the rest of the round.

Over the next three rounds, Dele scored continually as Elliott was not able to pose much of an offense. The Frenchman seemed to tire at the end of the fifth round but Elliott was not in shape to capitalize on it.

In the sixth Dele opened a cut over the left eye of Elliott that bothered the American.

In the seventh, a short left and a sharp right by Dele staggered Elliott but he stayed upright. Dele advanced and finally finished the fight.

## Bayern Munich back on top of Bundesliga

BONN (R) — Goals in the last 10 minutes by strikers Roland Wohlfarth and Danish international Brian Laudrup steered Bayern Munich to the top of the German Bundesliga with a 2-1 win at Bayer Leverkusen Saturday.

Wohlfarth, the league's leading scorer, struck in the 80th minute to cancel out a 62nd-minute goal from Oliver Page and Laudrup hit Bayern's winner three minutes before the end.

Bayern moved a point ahead of Werder Bremen, whose game with Wattenscheid was one of four matches postponed by bad weather which hit the Bundesliga's restart after the winter break.

Kaiserslautern, the surprise team of the season, kept up their championship challenge with a 1-0 win at home to Hamburg to move into second place ahead of Werder on goal difference and with a game in hand over Bayern.

Captain and striker Stefan Kuntz, who missed the later part of the first half of the season because of injury, hit the vital goal against Hamburg in the 81st minute.

Kaiserslautern had several chances to go ahead before Kuntz's goal which came after a comedy of errors in the Hamburg defense.

Goalkeeper Richard Golz missed a goal kick, Kaiserslautern substitute Bruno Labbadia fired a shot back into the goalmouth and after the ball had bounced off a defender, Kuntz finally hooked it home.

"You don't often lose to a goal like that," Hamburg coach Gerd Volker Schock said afterwards. "It was a first-rate mistake from the goalkeeper."

This time last year Kaiserslautern were struggling in the relegation zone. But like Werder, the southwest club's game in hand over Bayern makes them firm title challengers.

"We are still in the hunt with Bayern," coach Karlheinz Feldkamp said.

Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes predicted last week that his side would retain the championship because they had the ability to win the key games against the main challengers.

Heynckes looked as though he would have to eat his words against Leverkusen, regarded as dark horses for the title, until Wohlfarth struck his 12th goal of the season with a header and Laudrup struck from close range seven minutes later.

"We deserved to win," Heynckes said. "The team showed superb spirit after going 1-0 down. It was a fast game after the winter break."

Fifth-placed Borussia Dortmund, who have the best away record in the league and are regarded as possible outsiders for the championship, suffered a 7-0 thrashing at VfB Stuttgart.

VfB's Icelandic striker Eyrjolfur Sveinsson hit a first-half hat-trick as his side earned two vital points to pull away from the relegation zone.

## Whitaker wins unanimous decision to retain title

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Pernell Whitaker, despite fighting part of the bout with an injured left hand, scored a lopsided 12-round unanimous decision Saturday night over Anthony Jones to retain his undisputed lightweight title.

Whitaker won every round on the cards of two ringside judges and lost only round on a third card in a lackluster fight that had the crowd booing both fighters in the late rounds.

Whitaker appeared to injure his left hand in the middle rounds and used it only sparingly from then on. But he had built up such a commanding lead that the injury had no impact on the outcome of the bout.

Neither fighter hurt the other, and the only real spark in the bout came in the final round, when Whitaker pinned Jones in the corner and pounded him with combinations as the bell sounded.

"I think I hurt my hand on top of the head, but I still kept using it," said Whitaker, who had broken the same hand twice previously. "I think I fractured it."

The fight was overshadowed by the previous bout, which saw Greg Haugen upset Hector Camacho in a 12-round split decision to win the World Boxing Organization (WBO) version of the junior welterweight title.

Haugen, a 7-1 underdog, was aided by a bizarre 12th-round foul that occurred when he refused the referee's orders to touch gloves with Camacho to begin the final round, and Camacho hit him with a quick flurry of punches.

Haugen won a 12-round split decision by the narrowest of margins, but would have had only a draw had referee Carlos Padilla not taken a point away from Camacho for the foul.

Judge Bill McConkey had Haugen winning 114-112, while judge Dalby Shirley had Camacho by the same margin. Art Lurie had Haugen winning 114-113, meaning the fight would have been a draw without the point deduction.

The Associated Press also had Haugen winning 114-113. It was the first loss in the decade-long career of Camacho, a three-time champion who had won all 39 of his previous fights.

"I just have to come back now," said Camacho, of Osage Reservation, Florida. "I don't have much to say, you all saw the fight."

Haugen, a former lightweight champion, pressured Camacho continuously throughout the fight, but landed only sparingly and never seemed to hurt the champion.

## Gansler quits as U.S. soccer coach

NEW YORK (AP) — Bob Gansler quit as coach of the U.S. national soccer team Saturday, two days after an embarrassing 1-0 loss to Bermuda.

Gansler, who took over the U.S. team in January 1989, led the Americans to the World Cup for the first time in 40 years, but had just a 14-17-5 overall record.

He had been criticized for employing conservative tactics and Alan Rothberg, the U.S. Soccer Federation (USFF) president, had openly stated he was seeking a replacement with international experience.

"I guess lame ducks just don't fly that well," Gansler said in a statement issued by the USFF. "The team that we need to showcase was suffering because neither the players nor I could perform at maximum potential under these circumstances."

Gansler will become the USFF's national director of coaching and player development. John Kowalski, the coach of Robert Morris College and the U.S. indoor team, will take over as

coach of the national team on an interim basis. Federation officials said they hope to have a permanent successor within 30-60 days.

"Although this is a somewhat difficult situation for everyone, I am approaching it in a positive manner," Kowalski said. "Perhaps I can inject some fresh enthusiasm into the team, so that they can perform their best in upcoming games."

The United States has been shut out in six straight games since beating Spartak Moscow 1-0 last Oct. 27. The Americans have played two full internationals this year, losing to Switzerland and Bermuda on goals in the final two minutes.

The most likely replacement for Gansler is Bora Milutinovic, a Yugoslavian who coached Mexico in the 1986 World Cup and Costa Rica in the 1990 World Cup. Both teams performed well in those tournaments.

Another possibility is Kenny Dalglish, who unexpectedly resigned as Liverpool's coach Fri-

day, saying he no longer could withstand the pressure of the job. Former West German coach Franz Beckenbauer repeatedly has refused to consider taking the job.

Gansler, 49, came to the U.S. team from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and also was coach of the U.S. under-20 team. He was hampered by the lack of a national league in the United States, forcing the national team to conduct extended training camps.

"For the time he was there, he did as well as he could, considering the situation," said midfielder Tab Ramos, who found out about the changes Saturday night in Spain, where he plays for second division Figueras.

"It's going to be hard for the new coach, whoever it is, to come in and start selecting the players. He's going to have to do a lot of work," Ramos said.

At the World Cup, The United States went 0-3, was outscored 3-2 and finished 23rd among 24 teams.

## Lendl advances, Chang mauled in Memphs

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — Ivan Lendl easily advanced to the finals but Michael Chang was overwhelmed by hard-hitting Michael Stich of Germany in semifinal matchups at the \$750,000 Men's Tennis Indoor Championships.

Chang, ranked 15th, was dismissed 6-2 6-2 by defending champion and seventh seed Michael Stich of Germany in just 66 minutes.

Stich will face top seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia who earlier eliminated 11th seeded Derrick Rostagno 6-3 6-2 to

reach Sunday's finals. Chang's forehead disappeared at the start of the match and he never found his rhythm.

Stich, ranked 25th, dominated with huge first serves, often timed at over 120 miles an hour (193 km). The 22-year-old German broke Chang, 19, in the opening game and again at 3-0, and led 5-1 before Chang fought to hold serve for 5-2.

But Stich ached his way to set point and won it 6-2 with a forehand volley.

Chang's timing lagged in the second set as he double-faulted

and netted a backhand to drop serve in the opening game.

Stich was never challenged on his serve and broke the American again for a 5-2 lead with a backhand pass winner.

Chang saved one match point in the next game when Stich netted a volley but the German seized victory on his second match point when Chang returned a backhand into the net.

## Novotna, Smith reach finals

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma (R) — Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia and American Anne Smith won their semifinal matchups to advance to the finals of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma Women's Tennis Tournament.

Novotna, the top seed, beat

American Lisa Bonder-Kreiss 6-4 6-1, and Smith ousted Maan Bollegraf of the Netherlands 6-3 6-2.

Smith, 31, who has won 10 Grand Slam doubles titles, including five in women's doubles and five in mixed doubles, is looking for her first singles title.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH  
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East-West vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 6 5 2  
♥ K J 9  
♦ A 4 2  
♣ 10 9 8 4

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 8 7  
♥ 7 3 2  
♦ K J 10  
♣ A K J 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q 3  
♥ A Q 10 8 7 5  
♦ 6 5  
♣ Q

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Dbl 2 ♠ 2 ♠  
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠  
Bridge players would well to heed the advice of Sherlock Holmes: "If you rule out the impossible, what is left, however improbable, must be the case." Can you spot declarer's fulfilling trick on this deal?

With little in defense, but tremendous trick-taking potential, we concur with South's decision to leap to four hearts. Passing the buck with a bid of three hearts would be cruel to partner, since North would interpret it as a competitive measure, rather

than forward-going.

West led the king of clubs and shifted to a low diamond. Declarer could count nine tricks, and chances of successfully finessing the queen of spades were negligible. The early play had marked East for one of the missing high diamond honors, so West surely held the king of spades to justify a vulnerable takeout double.

From where was the 10th trick coming? Diamonds offered no chance, and declarer had just ruled out spades. Unlikely as it seemed, that left only the club suit as a source.

Declarer won the second trick in dummy with the ace of diamonds, and led the ten of clubs, discarding a diamond as West won the jack. The diamond return was ruffed and, after cashing the ace of hearts, declarer crossed to the jack of hearts, in the process drawing the last trump, to lead the nine of clubs. On this trick declarer discarded a low spade as West won the ace.

Dummy's eight of clubs was now a winner and declarer still had a trump entry to the table. No matter what the defenders did, declarer would ditch the queen of spades on the good club and chalk up the contract.

## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 25, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Although there are a number of delays and detours in gaining some of the things you want you would be wise to force nothing for the moment but keep on the alert for unexpected benefits.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is a day to make any changes that you wish to make your everyday concerns more attractive but in larger outlets gain advancement.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Make a point to forget spending all of your time with that jealous attachment and bring your focus closer to you so benefits can flow again on both sides.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) This is the day when you have it in your power to devise a new plan of work that will put you on the top of the heap by your own efforts.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Your need for some highly trained new allies who can extend your horizons far beyond bounds is great but don't let friends intrude.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is the time to do what will please members of your own household even though you want more income but that should await a more favorable period.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You certainly want to lash out at and criticize others but instead you would be wise to listen to what others have to suggest and follow

advice.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is the time for you to make sure that you do center your attention on having a greater abundance of money or possessions in your life.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You have the power of the planets with you but use caution in listening to friends or attachment tells you what to do to get your own way.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Your need for some private backing and some highly confidential information requires you search it out in complete secrecy or you lose.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) This is the time for you to make sure that you do seek out the most experienced older or more serious friend that is yours and get him to give you some advice.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) The world of outside action can be oyster now if you hold yourself to the many rules and regulations that apply to you and follow them fully.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) New ideas of all kinds should be accepted by you as the means by which you get along better with those persons with whom you now have to associate.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HEYN0  
ZARUE  
LAFICA  
DIBIT

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

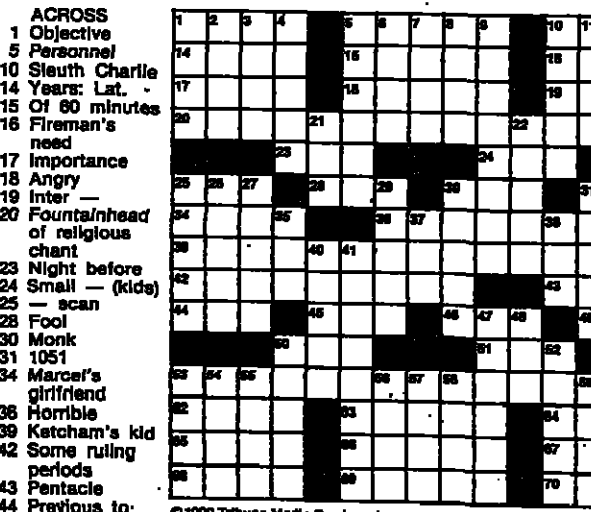
(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLEAM CRIME FRUGAL HYBRID

Answer: Old the stabilizer run the company, or was he just this?—THE "FIGURE" HEAD

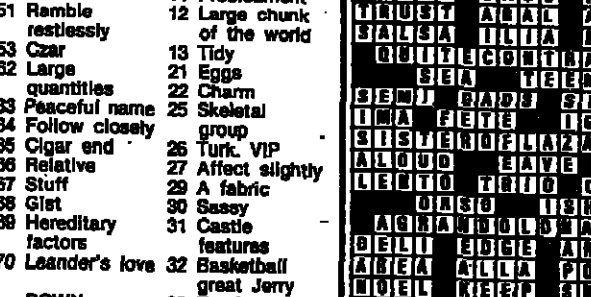
## THE Daily Crossword

by Robert D. Wilder



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



50 Beginning, 52 Throw away, 53 News bit, 54 Cast balcony, 55 Square pillar, 56 Indian tribe, 57 Youngster, 58 Noun ending, 59 Unadorned, 60 Mythomania, 61 Sailor's patron saint.



# Economy

## Land war likely to lengthen recession in United States

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy, now in a recession, is likely to receive a knock from the start of the Gulf ground war and its fate depends on the course of the war against Iraq, economists said.

U.S. consumers, who were just starting to show signs of becoming more confident about the future, will probably turn cautious again now that the land war has begun, economists said Saturday.

"It will hurt consumer confidence and have some effect on consumer spending," said John Williams, managing director at Bankers Trust.

Although the recession probably will not get much worse now that the land campaign has begun, the economy is unlikely to show much improvement until it's over, economists said.

Consumers will probably postpone purchases of big items as they anxiously await news of how the United States and its allies are faring.

Companies will likely hold off from spending more money on plants and equipment as they gauge the impact of the war on oil prices and the world economy.

Much will depend on the success of U.S.-led forces. The longer the war goes on, the worse it is for the U.S. economy.

U.S. stock and bond markets, which have been rallying for weeks in anticipation of an early end to the war, would suffer if the U.S.-led forces become bogged

down in Kuwait, economists said.

The U.S. dollar, which has perked up after falling to record lows against the Deutschmark earlier this month, would probably also be hurt by an extended war.

There's nothing markets hate more than uncertainty and the Defense Department's decision to impose a news blackout on the land campaign for security reasons will add to the confusion.

But unless the war starts going badly for the United States and its allies, a sharp, sustained rise in oil prices that would greatly damage the global economy seems unlikely.

Oil prices are likely to rise in the short run now that a ground war has begun but will probably fall back quickly because of ample world supplies, traders said.

"The market will think this is the beginning of the end of the war," one European trader said.

And as long as the markets are convinced that Saudi Arabia's oil fields are safe from Iraqi attack, prices should eventually fall under the weight of oversupply.

The only plus for the economy from a ground war is the boost to output from increased military spending.

But Robert Hormats, vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International, said that any economic benefits from military outlays will be more than swamped by the impact of the war on consumer and business confidence.

## Gulf crisis costs Jordan double its \$4b gross domestic product

AMMAN (R) — The Gulf crisis so far has cost Jordan at least \$8 billion, double the value of its domestic economic output in one year, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said.

The seven-month crisis had hit every aspect of the economy, he told Reuters in a weekend interview.

Jordan's "steadfastness in the face of adversity" was a miracle, he said.

"The Gulf crisis has created in us a sense of challenge and the need to make it on our own. We don't have anyone at the moment..." the prime minister noted.

Tourism was at a standstill, annual remittances of \$1.5 billion from Jordanians abroad had dropped drastically, manufacturing had fallen, losses in the transport sector alone amounted to \$500 million.

The port of Aqaba was working at only 10 per cent capacity and major exports of phosphates and fertiliser had been hit.

"All this has exceeded what had been estimated regarding damage to Jordan... the damage since Aug. 2 (when Iraq invaded Kuwait) is not less than \$8 billion, and that is preliminary," Badran said.

Gross domestic product (GDP) — the annual value of domestic products and services produced in the country of three million people — was only about \$4 billion, Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh said last week.

Jardaneh told Reuters grants and soft loans of around \$1 billion mainly from Japan and European Community countries had provided a breathing space.

But Badran said financial support received from Western countries "equals only a little percentage of the damages inflicted on Jordan."

Its traditional export markets in the Gulf and Iraq have disappeared, and Jordan is estranged from Gulf donors over its support for Iraq in the war despite its condemnation of Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait.

Badran said 300,000 Jordanians had flocked home from Iraq

and the Gulf states after the invasion of Kuwait.

This is the equivalent to around 23 million Americans many having lost all their possessions — suddenly returning to the United States in a six-month period.

In addition, over one million refugees have passed through the Kingdom — equal to an influx of 76 million people into the United States.

Badran said Jordan, following an International Monetary Fund (IMF)-backed economic recovery programme, had needed \$3 billion annually in aid to cover its balance of payments deficit before the Gulf crisis.

Now its fuel bill has soared from zero to around \$500 million annually and wheat requirements have jumped to 650,000 tonnes from 450,000 tonnes a year because of the return of Jordanians driven from their Gulf homes.

Iraq had been supplying Jordan with crude oil at well below market prices but no money changed hands as Baghdad paid off a debt to Amman estimated by officials at over \$1 billion incurred during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

Badran said Baghdad's debt now was down to \$236 million.

Jordan's trucked oil supplies of around 60,000 barrels per day from Iraq have been virtually eliminated by allied air attacks on the main Baghdad-Amman highway and the destruction of Iraqi refineries.

Now it is buying fuel at market prices from Syria and Yemen.

Badran said the country had foreign exchange reserves of \$750 million, divided between government reserves and obligatory commercial bank deposits with the central bank.

It also had an additional \$500 million in gold and debts owed to it, with gold reserves amounting to 1.15 million ounces, worth around \$410 million at current prices.

"It is going to be very hard to reestablish economic activity, get factories back on their feet, get back clients. Everything is falling apart," he said.

## International currency, stock centres begin tense, uncertain trading today

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo foreign exchange dealers return to a tense market Monday, with the dollar's fate seen bound to that of allied forces fighting a ground war against Iraq.

Analysts and dealers here said the market had already largely factored in Sunday's start of the long-awaited Gulf land campaign, and that they would bid the dollar up if it appeared U.S.-led troops were headed for a quick victory.

"The market is just going to have to wait and see how the ground war develops," said Takashi Okura of Bank of America.

Dealers said they expected the dollar to trade between 130-133.00 yen and 1.4950-1.5115 marks, assuming no surprises emerged from the land campaign.

The dollar closed in New York Friday at 132.05 yen and 1.5055 marks.

Meanwhile, the Tokyo stock market, Asia's biggest, was seen dipping slightly Monday in reaction to the ground offensive, but brokers said losses would be limited.

Brokers said trading should be subdued as the market awaited news from the front. War hitters were expected to confine the 225-share Nikkei average in a narrow range, they said.

On Friday, the Nikkei fell 121 points — 0.47 per cent — to 25,902.81.

"Whether ground war broke out or not, the 26,000 level was going to be a fairly strong resistance in this coming week," said Kazuo Urakami of Nikko Securities Investment Trust and Management Co.

"I won't be surprised if the market falls a bit on Monday... but this is not explosive news," he said.

Finding out just what is going on in the Gulf behind the tight allied news blackout promised to be a difficult matter for dealers and was likely to lead many to avoid taking aggressive positions.

Nonetheless, expectations that the allies should win the war meant currency markets would be quick to trade the dollar once the tone of the fighting was established, dealers said.

The dollar could target 133.50 yen and 1.5250 marks if it appeared that allied forces would prevail in a matter of days, they said. A war much longer than that could send the dollar lower.

Some dealers saw the U.S. currency falling below 129.80 yen and 1.4835 marks if the allies were unable to dig Iraqi troops out of fortified positions within a week or so.

Dealers agreed however that, once the war was over, the dollar could resume its earlier weak trend, with attention refocusing on weak U.S. economic fundamentals.

The prospect of Iraq using poison gas in the war cast a shadow over the Tokyo share market.

"I think, on Monday, people in the market are probably going to give more thought to the fate of the earth than to the fate of their portfolios," said Paul Migliorato of Jardine Fleming Securities.

U.S. stock, bond and currency markets were expected to react cautiously to the start of the ground war in the Gulf when they open for business Monday, financial analysts said Sunday.

The key will be news from the battle-front in the first hours of the assault and anticipation of the duration of the ground phase of the war, they said.

At the very least, economists said the start of the ground war against Iraq is likely to deal a blow to the recession-hit U.S. economy, delaying an upswing as consumers and companies think twice before spending just as they were beginning to show signs of regaining confidence.

On the markets, investors have been looking forward to a swift conclusion to the costly conflict and a revival in the economy as consumer confidence returned.

If the land engagement is bloody it could check the market advances sparked by the belief of successful allied air campaign which began on Jan. 17.

"It's going to be a bad situation... with the news of the atrocities (in Kuwait) coming and the burning of the oil fields," said Robert Brusca, chief economist at Nikko Securities Co International Inc.

"It's not clear it (the war) will be over in any cut or dried fashion," he added.

"I think how the markets react depends on how the early hours of ground war go," said Cynthia Latta, senior financial economist at Data Resources.

## Inflation, losses in state industries threaten China despite economic growth

BEIJING (R) — China's economy grew by a respectable five per cent last year, but it is threatened by serious problems including mounting losses in state industries and inflationary pressures, a senior official said Friday.

"The foundation of the economic upturn is weak," Zhang Zhongli, spokesman for the State Statistical Bureau, told a news conference.

"Every region, every department, and every economic enterprise has developed in an unbalanced way. There is still a grim side to the economic situation," he said.

"The most obvious manifestations are increasing excess inventories, declining economic efficiency, intensifying financial problems and increasing potential inflationary pressures," he said.

These chronic economic ailments might cause the government to slam the brakes on the economy to keep inflation under control, analysts said.

This would repeat a cycle of growth and retrenchment that has afflicted the Chinese economy in recent years.

The warnings of problems came despite the news that gross national product grew by a real five per cent in 1990, against a four per cent rise the year before.

Exports grew a booming 18.1 per cent while imports fell by 9.8 per cent to give China a trade surplus of \$8.71 billion, its first surplus since 1984, and against a deficit to \$6.6 billion the year before.

Inflation was held to 2.1 per cent in 1990 after 17.8 per cent in 1989.

One reason was "the state policy of adjusting prices (to market levels) was not fully implemented," Zhang said.

A sign that the battle against inflation must be fought again was that December cost of living rises for workers in many cities approached or exceeded 10 per cent, Zhang said.

A Western diplomat said many members of the government were worried that inflation could get out of control again, something that might increase popular displeasure with the government.

## Kuwaitis may borrow against future oil income to raise cash

LONDON (R) — Kuwait is considering borrowing against future oil revenues rather than liquidating foreign assets to raise cash for post-war reconstruction, Kuwait's investment chief said in an interview published Sunday.

The head of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), Abdullah Al Gabandi, denied in the independent Sunday newspaper that the Kuwaiti government was liquidating Western investments to fund the allied war effort.

"One thing I can tell you is that Kuwait's large oil reserve is an option in itself. A strong option is to borrow on the basis of future oil revenues," said Gabandi, recently appointed managing director of the nine-member KIA board.

The interview was conducted before U.S.-led multinational troops launched a ground offensive early Sunday against Iraq.

Kuwait's proven oil reserves, at 94.5 billion barrels, are the third largest in the world after Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Oil output at the time of the Iraqi invasion was 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d).

The KIA, the Kuwaiti government's financial arm now based in London, has in the past conducted its business in secrecy. Kuwait's worldwide investments are estimated to be worth \$100 billion.

"One thing I should stress here, and this is a message to the markets and everybody else, is that the Kuwaitis are not going to be that stupid and unload those assets. We have a number of good assets that we have accumulated over the years and we are not going to let go," Gabandi said.

The KIA had set aside \$800 million for the first three to five months of the emergency reconstruction of Kuwait, he added.

## Comecon to be buried in Budapest Wednesday

BUDAPEST (R) — Leaders of the Soviet-led trading bloc Comecon gather in Budapest this week to bury an organisation that did not with a bang, but with a whimper.

Although its death-blow was Eastern Europe's embrace of free-market democracy, Comecon — the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance — had been dying a slow death for years.

Unable to compete with the trading bloc set up in 1949 ultimately failed to live up to its name and coordinate real economic advantages for millions.

"There is general consensus that the 40-year-old Comecon could not contribute to modernisation, nor help improve the welfare, nor expand the agricultural position of member states," said Bela Kadar, Hungary's minister of international economic relations.

Prime ministers of the member states — the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Cuba and Vietnam — will seal Comecon's fate Wednesday.

Comecon's funeral will follow a meeting Monday at which Warsaw Pact foreign and defence ministers are due to dissolve the alliance's military organisation, thus toppling in one week the former East Bloc's economic and military pillars.

Yugoslavia, a Comecon associate since 1964, is sending an official delegation. Germany, which absorbed former member East Germany during unification last year, will not, the economics ministry in Bonn said.

Analysts agreed that Comecon's days were numbered even before its executive committee announced in Moscow last month that its members would dissolve it and form a more modern organisation that will not try to regulate their economies.

Ministers are scheduled to found the new Organisation for International Economic Cooperation, a loose consultative body. Thursday, Hungarian organisers said.

Since its founding, Comecon has done little of value while contributing mightily to Eastern Europe's economic plight, analysts say.

"It was a travesty," said Keith Crance, senior economist at Planecon, a Washington-based think tank that studies Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Until the bloc recently switched to hard-currency accounting and market prices, members had to pay only the average of the past five years' world prices. That shielded Eastern Europeans from the full force of the 1970s oil shocks.

"Anyone who ever spent much time studying it will be glad to see it gone. This will be a happy burial," he added.

Comecon aimed to integrate the economies of the communist world by coordinating individual countries' five-year and one-year economic plans in a web of barter deals that were supposed to end up balanced.

This was the logical consequence of the centrally planned economy, in which the state uses its foreign trade monopoly to coordinate all spheres of economic activity, noted Raimund Dietz of the Vienna Institute for Comparative Economic Studies.

Individual enterprises — the backbone of Western-style trade — were relegated to passive pawns to which the state distribution supplies and dictated production quotas.

"This form of foreign trade is so primitive that even the least developed countries can stack up well against it," said Dietz. "This is a pre-price age form of trade."

Comecon was born when the Soviet Union tried to keep its communist satellites from joining the U.S. Marshall plan for reconstruction of Europe after World War II, said Mihaly Simai, professor at Budapest's Institute for the World Economy.

The bloc also was a way to head off a rival plan to create a regional customs union that would have excluded the Soviet Union, he added.

Comecon proceeded to do nothing until Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev decided to build up the trading bloc in the 1950s.

These countries were lagging behind in terms of economic development and had special needs," Simai said. "He wanted to revive them."

But no leader could break the pattern of trade that helped keep Comecon members underdeveloped when compared with nations braving the rough and tumble world of competing markets.

Moscow's allies got cheap energy and raw materials in exchange for delivering poor-quality manufactured goods and industrial products the Soviet Union could not obtain elsewhere.

## Slowdown marks planned shift in Japanese economy, analysts say

TOKYO (AP) — Signs of slower economic growth are surfacing daily in Japan, but economists say that unlike the U.S. recession, the slowdown here shows that authorities are guiding the economy along a correct but precarious path.

The retrenchment, they say, should strengthen the economy by encouraging an overdue restructuring of the financial system and increased public works spending.

"This slowdown in economic growth is welcome and intentional," says Paul Summerville, chief economist at Jardine Fleming (Securities) in Tokyo.

"The Bank of Japan made it happen" by tightening credit, says Richard Koo, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute. But he cautions, "they're playing with fire. I hope they know their limits."

Among the many signs of a slowdown:

- Corporate bankruptcies soared 41.7 per cent from a year earlier to 646 cases in January, the Teikoku Data Bank reported.
- After months of denying any change in their investment plans, companies are reining in spending. Capital investment growth will slow dramatically from 16.7 per cent in fiscal 1990 to 1.6 per cent in the year beginning April 1, according to a survey of 1,121 major firms by Japan's leading financial newspaper.
- A survey of 178 major corporations by the Sanwa Bank found that pre-tax profits were likely to fall 3.8 per cent in fiscal 1991, the first decline in five years. Manufacturers' profits would likely fall 10 per cent.
- Consumer spending, the source of a large part of Japan's recent economic growth, is expected to lag because of concern about the Gulf war, slowing growth in real income and higher mortgage payments.
- The Economic Planning Agency scaled back estimates of economic growth in fiscal 1991 to 3.8 per cent. Many economists say they expect growth to fall to

around two per cent, the lowest level since the first oil crisis in the early 1970s.

Growth in fiscal 1990 is projected at 5.2 per cent — the fourth year in which Japan's output of goods and services grew five per cent or more.

More than oil prices and the U.S. recession, which are out of the control of Japanese officials, higher interest rates set by the Bank of Japan are putting the brakes on expansion.

Japan's central bank has raised the discount rate, the interest it charges on loans to banks, five times since May 1989, from 2.5 per cent to six per cent, to cool inflation.

The increases ended a period of extremely cheap credit that fuelled booms in the stock and real estate markets and added enormous wealth to corporations' financial portfolios.

After tripling in value in four years, the Tokyo stock market's main index plummeted about 10 per cent last year. Land prices, which rose 38.1 per cent nationwide in 1990, also have begun to turn down.

The bank announced Monday that Japan's broadest measure of money supply, a key indicator of inflation, grew last month at the lowest rate in more than seven years.

But bank officials quashed hopes that the report signalled an imminent drop in interest rates. They noted inflationary pressures remain, including a severe labour shortage and uncertainty surrounding oil prices.

Along with restraining inflation, the central bank has other long-term objectives in maintaining the painfully high interest rates, economists say.

Higher interest rates ensure long-term price stability, and, by slowing private spending, free up labour and goods for public works, says Jardine Fleming's Summerville.

Japan's airports, trains, roads, sewers and other facilities are stretched to their limits and must be rebuilt, he says.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Sunday, February 24, 1991 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	666.0	670.0	
Pound Sterling	1295.2	1303.0	
Deutschmark	442.3	445.0	
Swiss franc	515.1	518.2	
French franc	130.0	130.8	
Japanese yen (for 100)	503.5	506.5	
Dutch guilder	392.3	394.7	
Swedish crown	119.5	120.2	
Italian lira (for 100)	59.1	59.5	
Belgian franc (for 10)	214.9	216.2	

### TODAY AT

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

Nadia Al Jundi  
Farouq Al Fishawi  
in  
**DEATH SQUAD**

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Tom Cruise  
in  
**COCKTAIL**  
Show: 3:30, 8:30 p.m.

**MIAMI CONNECTION**  
Show: 5:15, 6:45, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

**L.A. BOUNTY**

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema **NIJOU** Tel: 675571

Kim Basinger  
in  
**9½ WEEKS**

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Nabila Obeid / Salah Gabil  
in  
**The Case Of Samira Badran**

Performances: 12:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15



# Thai coup leaders promise elections within six months

BANGKOK (AP) — Military commanders who easily toppled Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan said Sunday they wanted to return democracy to the people and would try to hold elections within six months.

"It is our intention that both amending the constitution and holding the general election be done in six months," said army chief Gen. Suchinda Krapayoon, one of five top officers who seized power in a swift, apparently bloodless coup Saturday.

The junta has not decided if it would hold power before the polling or appoint a caretaker government, Suchinda told a news conference at the army auditorium.

Suchinda said the junta, now ruling under martial law, wanted to restore democracy as soon as possible. He indicated Thailand's current political system would be retained.

Australia Sunday joined the United States in criticizing the coup. Prime Minister Bob Hawke said it had appeared that democratic forces were gaining influence in Thailand after a period of turbulence.

"We certainly express the very deep hope that the military pow-

ers will avoid bloodshed or any other abuse of human rights," Hawke told reporters.

"The United States strongly supports constitutional rule and deeply regrets the overthrow of Thailand's democratically elected government," the U.S. State Department said Saturday. It urged coup leaders to immediately bring back democratic rule.

The State Department suspended \$16.4 million in aid, most of it for development projects. U.S. law forbids assistance to countries whose democratic governments have been deposed. A \$4 million anti-narcotics programme was not affected.

However, Philippine President Corason Aquino, herself a frequent target of coup attempts by military officers, refused Sunday to comment on the Thai coup, calling it "an internal matter" for Thailand. Both Thailand and the Philippines are members of the Association of South East Asian Nations.

A newspaper editor quoted the new military leaders as saying they would be no change in the country's policy on the civil war in neighbouring Cambodia.

Chatichai continued the long-standing Thai policy of helping

guerrillas fighting the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia, but he also was a key mediator in talks to end the 12 years of war.

The editor, who spoke on condition of anonymity, was among newspaper editors and owners called in to the army hall Sunday morning for instructions on press coverage.

The editors have said all stories affecting national security must be cleared by military censors, and threatened to shut down violating newspapers.

There were only a few soldiers at the army hall, and the streets of the capital appeared normal. Some military men were seen performing Buddhist rites at military compounds.

The coup encountered no reported resistance, and apparently not a shot was fired.

It ended very quickly after Chatichai and other ministers were detained at the airport. Air force men armed with handguns detained them as their plane was taking off, bound for the northern city of Chiang Mai to see the constitutional monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Chatichai was an easy-going leader, famous for his "no prob-

lem" remark during crises. The nation newspaper quoted one of his aides as saying that Chatichai said he did not care if he was captured.

Chatichai "managed to sport a smile while being led out of the plane," a nation reporter who also was aboard was quoted as saying.

Chatichai's whereabouts remained unclear Sunday.

A few hundred troops also took over the government-run television and radio stations without resistance.

Rebel broadcasts identified the country's new leaders as armed forces Commander Gen. Sunthorn Kongsompong, the army chief and his deputy, and the navy, air force and police chiefs.

The rebel leaders dissolved the government and the parliament, imposed nationwide martial law and abolished the 1978 constitution. They banned political gatherings of more than five people.

They said Thailand's treaties and obligations with other countries would not be changed. Thailand's chief allies are the United States and the non-communist Association of South East Asian Nations.

# Cambodian rebels hope for shift in Thai policy

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodian guerrilla officials expressed optimism Sunday that Thailand's new military government would be less sympathetic to the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia.

Thailand has backed Cambodia's three guerrilla groups since the Vietnamese invasion in 1975. But the ousted Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan forged closer ties with both Cambodia and Vietnam as part of its bid to turn Indochina's "battlegrounds into market places."

A Western diplomat in Bangkok said he envisaged "a lot less sympathy for the Vietnamese position" now that Chatichai's son and adviser, Kraisaik Choonhavan, no longer is a key formulator of Cambodia policy.

"That channel of communication to the Phnom Penh administration is now effectively closed," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A guerrilla official, who also requested anonymity, said he was very pleased that Kraisaik was out of the picture.

"The previous government thought more about business than politics," he said. "It seems they favoured the Hanoi side. If the attitude of the new government changes from that path, then it would be better for us."

Guerrilla officials have accused Kraisaik of interfering in Cambodian peace efforts.

The three-party guerrilla coalition comprises the Communist Khmer Rouge and two non-Communist factions — the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the forces loyal to former monarch prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The warring Cambodian factions have agreed to meet for more talks in Indonesia following mediation efforts by Chatichai earlier this month, but no date has been set.

Fighting in the twelve-year war has again flared in the current dry season. The government has

launched attacks in the central province of Kompong Thom, and the Khmer Rouge earlier this month shelled the country's second city, Battambang, reportedly killing 15 civilians.

The guerrilla official said he thought there would be no change in plans for talks, but predicted the new military government, headed by armed forces chief Gen. Sunthorn Kongsompong, would give more political support to the guerrillas.

A second guerrilla official said the coalition had always enjoyed good relations with the Thai military.

"We have never had any problem with them. There has always been good cooperation. We hope those good relations continue," he added.

Both guerrilla officials asked that they not be identified by their faction.

Gen. Suchinda Krapayoon, no. 2 in the military junta that now holds power in Thailand, told a news conference Sunday that the country's policy on Cambodia would not be changed — "that is, we want peace in Cambodia."

In answer to a question, Suchinda said the Khmer Rouge must be included in any settlement of the conflict. Phnom Penh has said the Khmer Rouge cannot be allowed to return to power.

The Communist-style Phnom Penh government was installed by the Vietnamese after their 1978 invasion forced the Khmer Rouge from power. During the 3 1/2 years that the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia, hundreds of thousands of its 8 million people died from executions, famine and civil unrest.

Although Thailand has played a major mediating role in the Cambodian conflict in recent years, even under Chatichai it continued to provide bases and logistics support to the guerrillas. Weapons and other supplies reach the guerrillas through Thailand.

# Surprise new face elected to lead Poland's Solidarity

GDANSK, Poland (Agencies) — Marian Krzaklewski's election Sunday as leader of Solidarity seems to signal the union will take a lower political profile.

At his first news conference, Krzaklewski stressed once again that he was "a man outside any arrangements."

Krzaklewski, a 41-year-old computer scientist from Upper Silesia, pledged to turn Solidarity into a more effective trade union, run by professionals who would also conduct negotiations with the government.

He also hoped the union would be more successful in using legal instruments to defend workers' rights.

When Solidarity was born in the summer of 1980, Krzaklewski was a deputy department chairman at the Polish Academy of Sciences. He later became a founding member of the academy's negotiating commission in Silesia.

Arrested in 1984, Krzaklewski went on in 1986 to take over the distribution and printing of independent publications.

As a member of the Citizens Committee advising Solidarity founder Lech Walesa, Krzaklewski gained a greater national profile. He was nominated by Solidarity's powerful Upper Silesia chapter, which represents the heartland of Polish heavy industry.

Delegates gave Krzaklewski 222 votes. His rival, senate and deputy union leader Leszek Kaczynski, received 174.

"I support the idea of a pure trade union, not involved in any politics," Krzaklewski later told a news conference.

But he added that Solidarity's role as guarantor of market-oriented reforms should be continued. "We shouldn't forget that Solidarity remains the main guarantor of the Polish reforms," he said.

Earlier Walesa, who led the union until he was elected president of Poland last December, urged his former colleagues to support the country's tough austerity policies.

Solidarity is still a huge movement of reforms. You must help in leading the Polish reforms to the end," Walesa said.

But his remarks were greeted with lukewarm applause as many delegates preferred to set the union against the policies of the government which it propelled to power.

"Krzaklewski is not tainted by any political connections. He will not try to manoeuvre the union into politics," said the leader of a major Warsaw chapter Aciej Jankowski.

The defeat of Kaczynski, 41, came as a surprise. He was an adviser to Walesa in 10 years of the Solidarity struggle to remove Poland's Communist leadership.

Since a Solidarity-led government took over from Communists in September 1989, union leaders have appealed to their members for pay restraint and to allow the government's radical programme of market-oriented reforms to take root.

# Reporters implicated in S. Korean bribery scandal

SEOUL (AP) — About 20 reporters received gratuities totalling 40 million won (\$571,000) from the developer who is at the centre of a bribery scandal allegedly involving some of the country's leading politicians, prosecution officials said Sunday.

The officials said some senior editors of major newspapers and television stations in Seoul also were found to have received money from the developer. They did not disclose the amount allegedly received.

"We have obtained evidence that money was given to reporters on two occasions last year but we are not sure whether it violated any law," said one prosecution official, who asked not to be identified.

He said the money went to reporters covering Seoul's city government.

Some leading newspapers, including the Hankook Ilbo, have demanded a full, unrestricted investigation of the case. They accuse the prosecution of limiting its investigation for political reasons.

The prosecution closed its

probe of the case last week after arresting nine people, including a presidential aide and five legislators. They were charged with receiving bribes totalling \$1.4 million.

Those arrested allegedly pressured the Seoul city government to authorise a multi-billion-dollar housing project pushed by Hanbo Construction Co. in the "green belt" in southern Seoul, where development was restricted, prosecutors said.

Roh responded by firing two cabinet ministers and the mayor of Seoul and reshuffling the governing party leadership. He apologised on national television for the scandal but failed to allay mounting public anger.

The scandal is the largest, and most serious since Roh took office in 1988.

Even after the prosecution closed its investigation, new evidence allegedly implicated more government and party officials and reporters.

South Korean reporters often receive money called "chongji" from government officials and businessmen.

# King: Nepali migration threatens Bhutan's survival

By Michael Neale  
Reuters

THIMPHU, Bhutan — An influx of Nepali migrants poses the greatest threat to the survival of the small Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan since the seventh century, says the country's ruler King Jigme Singye Wangchuk.

Bhutan, hidden deep in the mountains between India and China, no longer qualifies for its travel book description of "the last Shangri-la."

Peace was shattered last September by an uprising of militants from the kingdom's ethnic Nepali minority. Sporadic violence has rumbled on since.

In an interview with Reuters, the 35-year-old king said he believed the problem would continue for at least another year but could be solved through "honest, sincere and genuine dialogue."

He makes frequent visits to the troubled southern districts, where most of the immigrants live, in an effort to redress grievances. He has ordered the release of hundreds of Nepali "anti-nationals" arrested in the past four months.

King Jigme said his greatest concern was the influx of migrants.

"Right now the factor that is at stake for us is basically the survival of the Bhutanese people," he said.

"After all these years since the seventh century we have never been dominated by any foreign power. We have always somehow miraculously been able to defend our sovereignty and our security," he said.

"The threat is that if we are not careful and if this large influx of Nepalis keeps coming into Bhutan, and if the Nepalis in Bhutan

want to create their own separate state and have their own separate identity, then we feel that it is only a matter of time — in the next 10, 15 or 20 years — before Bhutan will no longer be a Bhutanese nation."

"It will be a Nepali state... just like Sikkim... unless this problem is amicably and effectively solved."

Neighbouring Sikkim, annexed by India in 1975, was once an independent monarchy. Its last ruler was King Jigme's uncle.

The ethnic Sikkimese, like the Bhutanese, are of mainly Ongol stock, related to the Tibetans who share their Buddhist religion.

Nepali migrants, many of them ethnically Indo-Aryans and mainly Hindu, made the Sikkimese a minority in their own land.

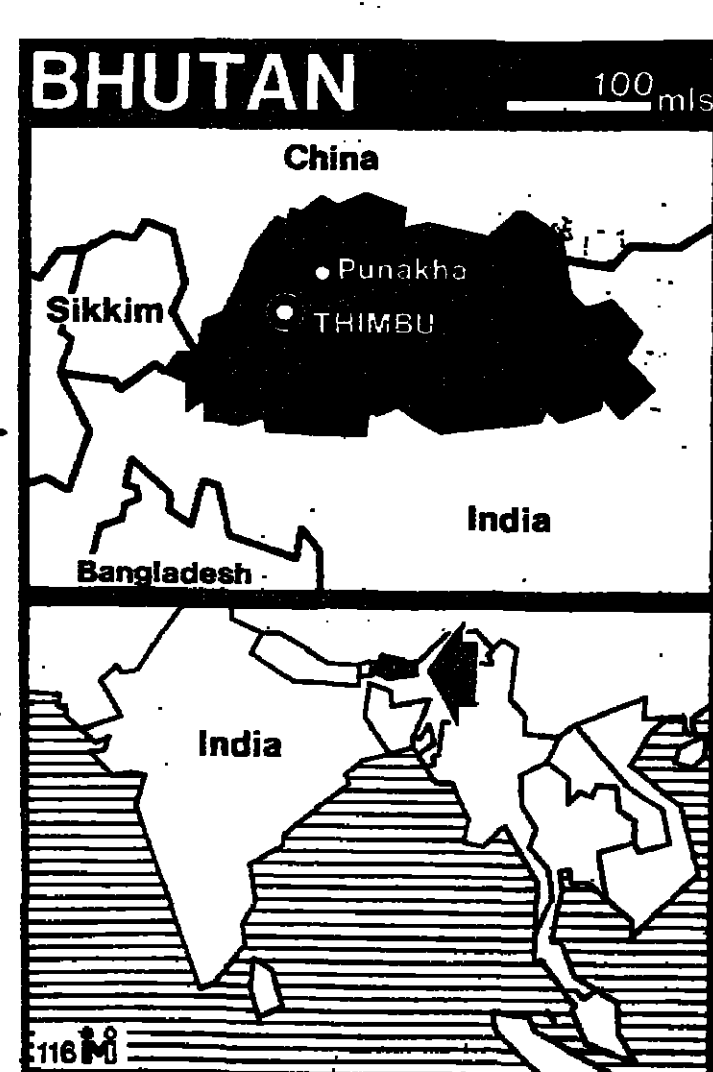
Bhutan has a population officially put at 600,000, living in an area the size of Switzerland. King Jigme said a recent census had shown that 28 per cent of Bhutanese citizens were of Nepali origin.

The census also uncovered large numbers of illegal Nepali immigrants, many of whom were expelled. Some joined the uprising and accused the government of racism and despotism.

Today an estimated five million Nepalis live in cramped settlements on the Indian side of Bhutan's border.

Southern Bhutan was ideal for Nepali migration, the king said, because of its free education, free health services, higher wages and good land available for cash crops and cereals.

On the long, thickly-forested border with the Indian states of Assam and West Bengal it had been impossible for Bhutan's weak administrative system to check the influx, he said.



The king said the revolt was led by a group called the Bhutan People's Party (BPP), whose membership number about 1,000. They were helped by Nepalis in India to whom they promised

they had no clear leader, the king said.

"The BPP has become extremely unpopular in southern Bhutan because they have raided a lot of villages and killed a lot of innocent people."

"When they could not extort money, they started stealing, and robbing people. When that didn't work, they started kidnapping for ransom. The whole organisation has now become not only a terrorist organisation, but they are actively involved in murdering people."

At least 30 people have been killed so far in cross-border raids, kidnappings, ambushes, vehicle hijackings, bombings, dynamite bombings and clashes with security forces.

Schools are closed and many destroyed. Post offices, police, health, forest, customs and agricultural posts have been wrecked. Bhutanese officials do not dare to venture out in national dress in the troubled south.

The first stirrings of protest were a backlash against government edicts dating from 1988, implemented by over-zealous officials and aimed at preserving Bhutan's unique cultural identity as part of its "one nation, one people" policy of integration.

One edict required Bhutanese to wear national dress on public occasions, another enjoined a code of conduct based on Buddhist precepts, and another the teaching of Dzongkha, the national language, in schools. Teaching in the Nepali language was stopped in 1989.

The king said measures to deter the Nepali influx would include regular censuses, improved checking systems and strengthening the administration in the southern foothills.

# Warsaw Pact meets today to scrap defence structure

BUDAPEST (R) — The foreign and defence ministers of the Warsaw Pact gathered here Monday to declare dead the military structure of their organisation, which helped Moscow to maintain its grip on Eastern Europe for 36 years.

At a meeting of the pact's Political Consultative Committee, ministers are expected to endorse a proposal by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to wind up its military side by April 1.

Although the rest of the Warsaw Pact will be dissolved only by March 1992, Monday's meeting coupled with the scrapping of the Eastern trading block Comecon at a separate conference beginning Wednesday will symbolically put an end to 46 years of Soviet rule in Eastern Europe.

"It looks that we'll have two mighty big funerals in one week," said a Hungarian Foreign Ministry official, who declined to be identified.

The Warsaw Pact meeting was initially set for last November but was repeatedly postponed by Moscow, citing its preoccupation with internal problems.

But in a letter to Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, Gorbachev suggested the date of Feb. 25 after Prague, Budapest and Warsaw threatened to quit by June in a unilateral move if Moscow continued to block the meeting.

Antall said he believed Gorbachev was influenced by the political process in Central Europe, which has transformed Communist states into multi-party democracies in under two years.

Soviet forces, the bulk of the Pact's military muscle, are already trickling home from the

countries of Eastern Europe where they have been based since they drove out German forces at the end of World War II.

Established in May 1955 by the Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania, the Warsaw Pact never had to protect any of its member countries against outside aggression.

Albania left the organisation in 1968 after not being invited to pact meetings for six years. East Germany's membership ceased last October when it was reunited with West Germany, a NATO member.

The Warsaw Pact's 4.8 million men — 3.7 million of them Soviet — went into action only against internal unrest and reform movements in its member countries.

Soviet forces crushed the Hungarian uprising of 1956, Warsaw Pact troops crippled the "Prague spring" in 1968, and the threat of their use prompted Poland's General Wojciech Jaruzelski to introduce martial law in 1981.

"During its existence the Warsaw Pact never cared about the security of its participants, but as the 1956 Hungarian intervention and the 1968 interference in Czechoslovakia showed, the Pact pretty much limited the sovereignty of its member countries," Hungarian government spokesman Balazs Laszlo said.

However, Soviet General Vladimir Lobov earlier this month denied suggestions that the Pact was a vehicle for ideological domination of Eastern Europe and a major cause of East-West confrontation.

"The objective... of the Warsaw Pact was a very humane purpose — making sure that there could be no war. Through-

out its life, the Warsaw Pact has played an important role in ensuring precisely that objective," he said.

In Hungary there are about 19,000 Soviet soldiers left, down from 49,500 last March when a bilateral agreement on their pull-out was concluded in Moscow. The last of them is due to leave by June 29.

In Czechoslovakia nearly 60,000 Soviet troops have returned home out of 73,500. The last unit will be pulled out at the end of May, one month ahead of schedule.

But in former East Germany, the massive task of bringing home 380,000 Soviet troops and their equipment will take until 1994.

Moscow has told Warsaw it will also take that long to withdraw the 50,000 Soviet soldiers in Poland, much to the dismay of Poles, who want them all out by the end of this year.

Soviet troops were withdrawn from Romania in 1958 and the country's Marxist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu refused to allow them back later. None were needed in Bulgaria, formerly Moscow's most trusted ally.

In the countries they did occupy, the troops are leaving behind thousands of buildings that they built, thousands more that they borrowed and claims for damages to property and environmental pollution running into hundreds of millions of dollars.

In Hungary, as in Czechoslovakia, there is a major dispute over the value of the property the Soviets are leaving behind. Moscow is claiming compensation of over 1.2 billion roubles (\$1.1 billion) at the rate Warsaw Pact states have set to settle trade imbalances.

# Alia blames Albanian opposition for latest unrest, defends Hoxha

VIENNA (R) — Albania's Communist leader Ramiz Alia blamed the country's enemies Saturday for current political violence and said he would defend the heritage of his hardline predecessor Enver Hoxha.

In a radio speech issued by the Albanian News Agency (ATA), Alia pledged to uphold law and order and said the instigators of riots in Tirana and elsewhere would be punished.

"We will not allow Albania to become a holocaust of the political ploys of various oppositions or the aims of external enemies," Alia said.

He appealed for public support to combat what he called "vandal and terrorist elements" and warned against attempts to split the ruling Communist Party.

Opposition sources in Tirana reported fresh unrest in the southern town of Fieri where pro-government peasants, bussed in from the countryside, tried to

re-erect a statue of Hoxha and clashed with local citizens.

The sources said police had fired shots to disperse the crowd. They had no reports of any injuries.

In Paris, Leka, the exiled son of King Zog, Albania's last monarch, said his own sources spoke of 20 people dead and at least 50 injured in the clashes.

Official figures say four people have been killed in Tirana in three days of anti-Communist rioting during which a statue of Hoxha, the symbol of Stalinist rule in Albania over 45 years, was toppled.

"The figure of Enver Hoxha cannot be torn down because it personifies the biography of the people, the history of new Albania. The (Communist) Party and the Albanian people are proud of having had such a leader," Alia said.

Genç Pollo, a spokesman for the opposition Democratic Party,

said he had been surprised by the hard tone of Alia's speech.

"I was unpleasantly surprised to hear Alia mention the opposition in the same breath as unidentified external enemies," he told Reuters.

The Democratic Party issued a statement accusing government and Communist Party hardliners of provoking violence to pave the way for a military coup.

Alia, the successor of Hoxha who died in 1985, sacked the hardline cabinet of Adil Carcani Friday and installed a new cabinet composed mainly of party technocrats, bowing to student demands.

He also set up a presidential council which threatened to impose a state of emergency if law and order were not restored.

Officials said the four people killed, one policeman and three civilians, were shot around the Tirana Military Academy Friday evening.

# Column

## Rap artist ticketed for fire code violation

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Rap artist Vanilla Ice was ticketed for a fire code violation Friday after inviting fans at a concert to crowd toward the stage, an official said.

A thick brass rail at the front of the Municipal Auditorium was broken by the crush of bodies at Thursday's show, said Jose Garza, assistant fire marshal. No injuries were reported. The ticket was issued early Friday to Robert V. Van Winkle, 23, the chart-topping performer known as Vanilla Ice or Iceman. "Security was good and the crowd was under control until he yelled, 'hey, c'mon forward,'" Garza said. "They heard 'forward' and all hell broke loose," he said. "There was a lot of pressure. Kids up front were screaming for the crowd to back off. It could have been really bad." Garza located the performer backstage after the concert and cited him for violating an ordinance against overcrowding of aisles.

## Research helps actor play mad psychiatrist

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anthony Hopkins says a good script and a little research made it simple to play a mad psychiatrist in the hit movie The Silence of the Lambs. "I must say that I found the part very easy to play," the Welsh-born actor said during a recent visit. "I'm able to get into the skins of these — oops, I'm able to move into these parts with ease. I enjoyed playing it." The Silence of the Lambs is about an FBI recruit played by Jodie Foster who is assigned to interview a cannibalistic killer portrayed by Hopkins.

## Man mauled after circus lions freed

MELBOURNE (R) — A drunken man was badly mauled after apparently wrestling with one of four circus lions freed from a cage, police said. They said the 35-year-old man sustained severe gashes to his neck and back and was in stable condition in hospital after surgery. Bolt cutters were used to remove chains on the lion's cage at the circus in the Australian town of Ararat, a police spokesman said. "The injured man apparently tried to wrestle one of the lions. He was definitely drunk," he told Reuters. A policeman was also slashed by one of the lions as he and five other officers and circus staff coaxed and herded them back into their cage in the early morning darkness. The policeman was not badly injured. Police said they were seeking the injured man's companion who fled after the lions were freed.

## Scientist chosen as U.K.'s 1st astronaut

LONDON (AP) — A 27-year-old scientist has been chosen to be Britain's first astronaut in an Anglo-Soviet mission in May, the Soviet bank financing the mission said. Helen Sharman, a chemist who develops recipes for the Mars Candy Company, said she had been training for more than a year in the Soviet Union and was not afraid. "I would rather fly in space than cross Leninist Prospect," a busy part of Moscow. Narodny Bank in London. More than 13,000 candidates applied for the mission which will carry out six days of experiments in weightless conditions aboard the Soviet Mir space station. The finalist, Tim Macé, 35, will train with a back-up crew for the mission and perform the same experiments on Earth, so the results can be compared. Air Vice Marshal Peter Howard, medical director for the Jumo mission, said Ms. Sharman and Macé would return to the Soviet Union for training with their crews.

## China's population grows to 1.14 billion

PEKING (R) — China, the world's most populous country, added 16.29 million people in 1990, bringing the population to 1.143 billion, the State Statistical Bureau said. A statement said the crude birth rate was 21.06 per thousand and the death rate 6.67 thousand, meaning the natural growth rate was 14.39 per thousand. China has instituted strict birth control policies for urban residents to control the size of its population, limiting most families to one child. Chinese population experts have said the population will exceed 1.3 billion by the year 2000 if its growth gets out of control.